

Aerial search in Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — An aerial search began Tuesday one day after a plane carrying 14 people, including U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland, disappeared on a flight to a refugee camp in northwestern Ethiopia. Ethiopia's civil aviation authority began the search with several light aircraft just before 8:00 a.m. (8:50 GMT). Civil aviation authorities said a C-130 Hercules cargo plane also was standing by. U.S. embassy official John Guerra said the pilots reported heavy clouds and poor visibility in the area of the search, which was following the general route the pilot of Leland's plane would have taken to the Fegale refugee camp near Ethiopia's border with Sudan. The Twin Otter aircraft carrying Leland and eight other Americans, including staff members and U.S. embassy personnel, was last heard from by radio at about 10:45 a.m. (11:45 GMT) Tuesday, about 15 minutes after it left Ethiopia's Bole airport in Addis Ababa, Guerra said. Five Ethiopians, including three government officials, the pilot and co-pilot, also were aboard the airplane owned by Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the government relief agency.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

'Closed' road agreement signed

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt Tuesday signed an agreement to establish a "closed" land link to transport passengers between Baghdad and Cairo. The agreement provides for using one vehicle for an average of a single trip between Baghdad and Cairo in both directions along the line via the ports of Aqaba and Nwebe using the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which is owned by the three countries. The number of vehicles and trips can be increased after the approval of the transport ministers of the three signatory countries, the agreement says. The agreement permits the concerned transport companies in the three countries to define technical, administrative, and financial matters related to the implementation of the agreement. It also subjects the vehicles used on this line to the laws and regulations followed in the three countries. This line, according to the agreement, will be operational 30 days after the transport ministers of the three countries endorse the agreement between the transport companies in the three countries as first party to the agreement and the Arab Maritime Bridge Company as a second party to the agreement.

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Sheikh Jaber receives message from King

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Tuesday received a message from His Majesty King Hussein on Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations and the current situation in the Arab world. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, did not give details of the message, which was delivered by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, who is accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem on a working visit to Kuwait.

Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah attended the meeting. Later, Sharif Zaid held talks with Sheikh Sabah on bilateral relations and means of boosting cooperation in various fields as well as topics of mutual concern to Jordan and Kuwait, Petra said.

A Jordanian official quoted by the AP said in Amman that the premier was to discuss "with our Kuwaiti brethren Jordan's economic and financial status."

Jordan is seeking Arab aid to reschedule part of its \$8 billion foreign debt. Kuwait gave Jordan \$80 million — \$40 million in cash and the rest in crude oil, since last April. In Amman, government officials told Reuters this week Jordan was seeking two kinds of aid over the next four years while it

implemented an economic reform programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

One was direct grants and the other interest-free deposits. Jordan would place the deposits, which it hoped would reach \$500 million to \$1 billion, with banks and use the interest to boost its foreign exchange.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman have been singled out as Arab countries on which Jordan could pin high hopes to get regular aid and form the deposit.

Kuwait was one of several Arab countries that pledged to give Jordan \$1.25 billion a year for 10 years. But the 1978 pact ended last year with actual contributions falling short of that.

Dinar steady

The Jordanian currency remained firm against the dollar on the free market Tuesday, two days after the Central Bank pumped in more than \$25 million to help stabilise it, dealers said.

They said the dinar was trading at 818 fils to the dollar, unchanged since Sunday but up from Saturday's widely quoted rate of 880 fils.

The Central Bank fixed the official rate at 883, unchanged from Saturday.



HM King Hussein



Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah

Israeli army says infiltrator killed

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli army said Tuesday its forces had shot dead an assailant who crossed the demarcation line with Jordan and briefly held two hostages, including an Israeli soldier.

In Amman, a military spokesman said a Jordanian conscript Farid Ali Mustapha, had gone missing Tuesday morning and was believed to have crossed into the Israeli-occupied territory from the south.

Mustapha was absent from his observation post at the southern

region this morning and after search operations, it was found that the conscript was missing," the unidentified spokesman said.

"We believe that he crossed the ceasefire line into the Israeli-occupied territories," he said.

The Israeli army said the attack occurred at 11:30 a.m. (08:30 GMT), when the infiltrator opened fire near a collective farm, 20 kilometres north of Eliat and less than one kilometre from the ceasefire line.

The soldier wounded an American volunteer at the farm.

Jordan receives \$70m Arab aid

By Rana Sabbagh Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan received \$40 million in aid from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and another \$30 million from Dubai, a senior Jordanian official said Tuesday.

He said the aid from Abu Dhabi was received Monday, several weeks after Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker visited the UAE, and from Dubai three weeks ago but gave no further details.

The UAE was among several Arab countries who pledged to give Jordan \$1.25 billion a year for ten years. The 10-year pact ended in 1988 and actual donations fell short of that.

Jordan was an agreement from the Paris Club of major nation creditors to reschedule part of its \$8 billion foreign debt in July and talks will soon start with the London Club of banks of rescheduling its debt.

Sharif Zaid is now visiting Kuwait to discuss possible assistance or participation in Amman's financial plans.

Tension hits new height in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Occasional sniper fire crackled across Beirut's dividing green line Tuesday amid reports that army commander Michel Aoun and rival Syrian-backed militiamen were preparing for fierce battles.

People streamed out of the bomb-ravaged city during the lull in the five-month confrontation to avoid what Nabil Masri, a bank employee, called "the worst, which is yet to come."

"There is talk all over Lebanon that they are preparing for either a long confrontation or a final battle. We don't want to be here, in either cases," Masri said.

Masri, interviewed in west Beirut, said he was taking his wife and three children to settle in a rented apartment in Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

"No matter what, the children will have to get their education when the next school year begins in October, and schools won't resume teaching in Beirut if the confrontation continues," he added.

Masri, 42, said he would register his two daughters and son with a school in Sidon but he would "have to drive to Beirut every day, that is if the bank stays open."

Five months of savage artillery duels between Aoun's 20,000 troops and Syria's 40,000 soldiers backing Lebanese militiamen have killed 549 people and

wounded 1,322. All but 200,000 of Beirut's 1.5 million residents have fled to safer areas in South Lebanon, the eastern Bekaa Valley or the northeastern mountain resorts.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said no casualties were reported along the confrontation lines in Beirut and the nearby mountains, but that tension was high.

The independent daily newspaper Al Nahar said Syria has "decided to fight a war of attrition in Lebanon to achieve its aims of taming the (rightist) camp."

The paper said Syrian officials have informed their allies that Damascus "will not accept any dialogue with Gen. Aoun under any circumstances."

Aoun, 54, has declared a "war of liberation" to drive Syrian forces out of territories they have policed since 1976.

Al Nahar said Syrian troops might try to "storm through" the 800-square-kilometre enclave northeast of the capital in order to topple Aoun.

Sources at Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia, Syria's main ally, said Aoun's forces could try to break into Syrian, police territory.

One ranking PSP source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Aoun had "massed

tanks and troops for an operation across the traditional frontline."

Political deadlock was reached more than a week ago after a three-member Arab League committee said a two-month Lebanon mediation effort resulted in an "impasse."

The foreign ministers of Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Algeria said they would report back to their leaders to determine whether they should try to reactivate the mission.

King Hassan II of Morocco, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid were asked May 26 at an Arab summit to work out a peace settlement for Lebanon by November.

The French-language daily L'Orient Le Jour described the situation in Lebanon without the committee as "like a car without brakes."

U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon John McCarthy, talking to reporters after a 45-minute meeting with Aoun, said the Bush administration has urged the three Arab leaders to pursue their efforts on Lebanon.

McCarthy said the committee "has suggested a course of action (to solve the crisis) and has identified the principle obstacle to that course of action, all of which we found very encouraging." He did not elaborate on the remark.

Fateh elevates Arafat's status

TUNIS (R) — Fateh, the main group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), elected Yasser Arafat chairman of its Central Committee Tuesday, creating a new post to conform with his status as president of the State of Palestine.

A congress of more than 1,100 Fateh members voted on the title after an all-night session, the PLO news agency Wafa said. Arafat previously chaired meetings of the Fateh leadership as commander-in-chief of the movement's revolutionary forces.

An Arafat aide said the congress had also created the post of Fateh commander-in-chief and Arafat was likely to fill it.

The congress, now in its sixth day, has also restructured Fateh institutions and opened the door to fuller participation by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

It backed a proposal that members from the West Bank and Gaza Strip could sit on all Fateh committees and councils, which include a newly created politburo of up to 11 members.

Membership of Fateh is illegal under Israeli law in the occupied territories and the movement would not at first declare the names of those elected from inside, Fateh officials said.

The move reflected the importance Fateh attaches to the intifada in the occupied territories, which acted as a springboard for the diplomatic offensive launched last year at a Palestine National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers.

The congress endorsed the decisions of the Algiers meeting, which proclaimed an independent Palestinian state which would live in peace alongside Israel.

Fateh, in line with the policy of the PLO Executive Committee, rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza in their present form.

"Any elections... must take place in a free and democratic atmosphere, after the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the elections must be part of an integral programme for a final settlement," the congress resolution said.

On military operations, an emotive issue in the movement, the congress voted to "continue to intensify and escalate military action and all forms of struggle to eliminate the Zionist Israeli occupation of our occupied Palestinian land."



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat holds a present of flowers he received on the occasion of his 60th birthday which coincided with the Fateh congress in Tunis

Fateh has in fact suspended raids on Israeli targets since the Algiers meeting last November and Arafat aides say the leadership does not intend to resume them.

The resolutions (see page 2) did not mention Arafat's renunciation of terrorism, his recognition of Israel's right to exist or his view that the Palestine national Charter, which advocates dismantling the state of Israel, has been overtaken by events.

The movement, which has not met at this level since 1980, approved for the first time contacts with some Israelis.

It said the contacts could be with "Israeli democratic forces which reject the occupation, support the inalienable national rights of our people... and recognise the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

In practice Arafat has authorised contacts with a much wider body of Israeli opinion and is likely to continue doing so.

The congress called on the United States, which opened a dialogue with the PLO last December, to recognise the Palestinian right to self-determination and an independent state, cut back its support for Israel, agree to an international Middle East peace conference and repeal all laws hostile to the PLO.

The congress is already running one day late and delegates said it might have to continue into Wednesday. It has not yet started elections for the Central Committee and the 106-member Revolutionary Council, which acts as a smaller version of the congress and meets more regularly.

Iraq calls on Iran to sign peace pact

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Tuesday called on Iran to sign a formal peace agreement a year after a U.N. brokered ceasefire stifled the guns in their eight-year Gulf war.

"The ceasefire alone is not the sole fortress for peace..." he said in a nationwide radio and television broadcast to mark the announcement by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the ceasefire agreement Aug. 8, 1988.

"Only a comprehensive, complete and clear peace agreement, comprising all legitimate rights and duties (of both states) is what we strive to achieve," he added.

The speech, read on Hussein's behalf, said: "Our desire for peace was confirmed through all our intentions over the past nine years, but Iran's rulers, in their deeds and probably intentions as well, (are) far away from peace."

Tuesday was an official holiday for Iraqis. On Monday night, thousands of people poured into a central Baghdad park for a fireworks display and traditional singing and dancing in an anniversary celebration.

Crowds of teenagers, some wearing traditional Arab robes, waved flags and portraits of Hussein labelled "the maker of peace and victory."

"The activities of the Iranian officials during the year that followed the ceasefire make Iraq more insistent on a peace consolidated into a comprehensive peace treaty," Hussein said in his speech.

He warned Iran against making miscalculations. Failure to sign a peace agreement would expose all states in the region to the worst probabilities, he said.

The Iraqi president called for an immediate settlement of the prisoner of war (PoW) problem. The fate of over 100,000 Iraqi and Iranian PoWs is yet to be resolved.

"He who desires genuine peace must settle the problem of PoWs between the two countries according to Geneva conventions, which solves the fate of all PoWs in the world."

Both countries have exchanged more than 1,000 sick and disabled PoWs under the sponsorship of the international Red Cross over the past two years.

But repatriation stopped when both sides charged each other with violating the terms of the prisoner swap.

Hussein said that since the ceasefire Iraq had abolished a full army corps and discharged more than 200,000 conscripts.

"We have released 203,211 soldiers from the armed forces during the period from October 18, 1988 to June 30, 1989," he said. "A decision was taken to freeze the (700,000 para-military) popular army as from June 17 and until further notice."

Iraqi victories prior to the signing of the ceasefire began in April last year when its army ended

Hizbollah rejects trading Israeli soldiers for Obeid

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shi'ite leaders again rejected talks Tuesday on trading three Israeli soldiers for a kidnapped Muslim cleric, while Lebanese press reports said Syria may negotiate on Iran's behalf in the hostage crisis.

In Iran, the English-language Tehran Times said Tuesday that Iran would be willing to use its influence in the hostage crisis if the United States agreed to release long-frozen Iranian assets in American banks.

"There shall be no contacts and no negotiations as long as Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid remains in captivity," said Sheikh Sobhi Tofaili, a senior Hizbollah leader in a statement distributed in Beirut.

"This is the party's unshakable conviction and this is what we shall do," Tofaili said, adding: "Hizbollah is not concerned with the question of the hostages or the negotiations revolving around it."

Israeli commandos kidnapped Obeid, 33, a Hizbollah-affiliated cleric, from his home in South Lebanon July 28 and flew him to Israel, touching off the current crisis.

Israel has offered to trade Obeid and Lebanese prisoners it holds, estimated around 400, for three Israeli soldiers and the 16 Western hostages held in Lebanon.

But Hizbollah has insisted on Obeid's unconditional release. The party, believed the umbrella group for hostage-holders, is Iran's main ally in Lebanon.

Hizbollah's spiritual guide, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, said in a separate statement published by several Beirut newspapers Tuesday that Obeid's

abduction left "the region poised on a powder keg."

"That act of piracy led to the killing of American officer Higgins," said Fadlallah, referring to the announcement by the underground Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth that it hanged William Higgins to avenge Obeid's abduction.

Fadlallah said Israel's refusal to free Obeid and movements of U.S. warships in the Eastern Mediterranean after Higgins' death reminded him of tensions that preceded Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"I do not rule out the possibility of a large-scale military operation by Israel to get itself off the hook in this crisis which it created," Fadlallah said.

But the independent newspaper Al Nahar said Tuesday there were indications that Syria and Iran would "coordinate and intensify efforts to resolve the hostage issue and defuse the crisis."

"This is expected to take its final shape when Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrives in Syria soon for talks with President Hafez Al Assad's government," Al Nahar said in a report from its Damascus correspondent.

Al Nida, the organ of the pro-Moscow Lebanese Communist Party quoted unnamed travellers from the Syrian capital as saying the government "may have been authorised by Iran and Hizbollah to negotiate the release of the Western hostages." It did not elaborate.

In other developments: — U.N. envoy Marrack Goulding told Israel Tuesday it should free Obeid.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin rejected the call from the U.N. under-secretary general who has also visited Lebanon and Syria on his mission to free the hostages.

Asked if he had urged Rabin to free Obeid, Goulding replied: "I have indeed."

He later told reporters after meeting Deputy Foreign Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu: "The Israeli operation to kidnap Obeid did not help. I don't believe Israel broke the deadlock."

Rabin told reporters: "I beg to differ with this assumption."

Goulding declined comment when asked if he had relayed a message from Sheikh Fadlallah in Beirut.

— Britain's ambassador to Lebanon said that most Western hostages there may have been moved to the Bekaa Valley, a stronghold of Hizbollah.

"The last information we had was that the majority of them had been taken to the Bekaa where there is much less shelling than there is in west Beirut or the southern salient," Ambassador John Allan Ramsay told Independent Television News.

Interviewed from Beirut, Ramsay said he had reason to believe that the hostages, who include four Britons, were likely to have been taken out of harm's way "given their value to their captors" because of heavy shelling in the Lebanese capital.

— Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Monday its experts believe the body hanging from a rope in a videotape released last week by kidnappers was likely that of Higgins. But the FBI offered no judgment about the time of death or the cause.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said President George Bush telephoned Higgins' wife, Robin, to offer support.

"The president said the U.S. government will continue to do all it can to obtain a full accounting of what happened to her husband," Fitzwater said.

"Although a positive identification could not be made, numerous observable characteristics were noted indicating that the person depicted in the videotape is Higgins," the FBI said. "This judgment was made by forensic experts and pathologists."

The FBI would not comment on whether it was able to determine the time and location of Higgins' death. But a law enforcement source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said FBI experts were unable to determine the time of death.

Columbia in space on super-secret mission

CAPE CANAVERAL (Agencies) — Columbia, the United States' oldest shuttle, returned to space for the first time in 3½ years Tuesday, rocketing into orbit with five military astronauts on a secret mission to send a spy satellite aloft.

The 125-ton winged spaceship blazed away from its seaside launch pad at 8:37 a.m. (12:37 GMT) after a mostly blacked-out countdown and darted northeastward. The exact launch time was not made public until nine minutes before liftoff, when the Defence Department lifted the blackout.

"We're tracking it right down the middle of the pike," the flight guidance officer said about four minutes into the flight.

Nearly nine minutes after liftoff, the U.S. space agency announced that Columbia was in orbit more than 160 kilometres above the Earth, streaking along at more than 28,000 kilometres an hour.

"We have a completely clean and smooth ascent from mission control. Columbia is very clean," a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) spokesman said at the mission control centre in Houston.

Due to the strict secrecy of the Defence Department mission, Space Agency officials

were prohibited from revealing details of the flight, even those as small as what the five astronauts would be eating.

It was believed the launch was delayed for more than half an hour while mission directors waited for a light mist to burn off and increase visibility at the shuttle's emergency landing site at the Kennedy Space Centre.

Columbia's two powerful solid-fuel booster rockets — whose failure caused the 1986 Challenger disaster — separated from the shuttle on schedule two minutes and nine seconds after launch.

The spaceplane, the first ever to fly in space more than once,

reached orbit about six minutes later.

Columbia, making its seventh space flight and first since 1986, carried a crew of five military officers led by mission commander air force Colonel Brewster Shaw, 42.

Because the flight is secret military mission NASA and Defence Department spokesmen would not reveal the length of the mission and the payload.

While the Pentagon maintained a stony silence, private technology experts said Columbia's secret payload was a spy satellite.

Some said Columbia was carrying an advanced photo satel-

lite code-named strategic response satellite (SRS), which is said to be able to snap pictures from orbit of images as small as a newspaper headline.

The SRS is the latest in the so-called "Keyhole Series" essentially an improved version of the KH-11, known as the workhorse of the Pentagon's spy satellite programme.

Other private sources said the cargo could be a \$500-million radar satellite code-named Lacrosse. It is said to be so powerful it can detect underground facilities.

These industry sources say one Lacrosse satellite was launched last year.

مكتبة الأمل

Fateh adopts broad political strategy

TUNIS (R) — Following are extracts from the political programme adopted by the general congress of Fateh in Tunis (unofficial Reuters translation from the official Arabic text):

"The congress... defines its future goals as follows:

On the Palestinian front:

1. The question of Palestine is the core of the Arab-Zionist struggle.

2. Decisive commitment to the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people in its homeland Palestine, including its right to return, to determine its fate without outside interference and to set up its independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

3. Affirmation of the unity of the Palestinian Arab people inside and outside Palestine and that the PLO brings them together as the leader of their struggle and their sole legitimate representative.

4. The Congress... affirms the historic importance of the decisions of the 19th session of the Palestine National Council (in Algiers in November 1988), especially the proclamation of independence, and... gives the Central Committee of the movement a mandate to work on all levels to put these decisions into practice.

5. Continuing to intensify and escalate armed action and all forms of struggle to eliminate the Zionist Israeli occupation of our occupied Palestinian land and ensure the right of our people to freedom and independence.

6. ... Escalation of the popular uprising which aims to end the Zionist Israeli occupation.

7. Rejection of and resistance to the autonomy plan and other plans designed to legitimise the Zionist settler occupation.

8. The Fateh congress rejects the Shamir plan for elections and affirms that any elections inside our occupied land must take place in a free and democratic atmosphere under international supervision after the withdrawal of Israeli forces and that the elections must be part of an integral programme for a final settlement.

10. ... Affirms the right of the PLO to take part independently and on an equal footing with

other parties in all conferences and international efforts on the question of Palestine and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

12. To continue dialogue with Israeli democratic forces which reject the occupation and support the inalienable national rights of our people... and recognise the PLO.

On the Arab front:

2. Call on the Arab states to adhere and carry out all (Arab summit) resolutions and especially to fulfil the financial obligations they assumed.

4. To respect the right of the Palestinian revolution to perform its tasks across any Arab land.

6. Call on the Arab states, and especially the confrontation states, to unite their forces and mobilise their masses to confront Israeli aggression.

On the international front:

1. Commitment to an effective international conference with full powers for peace in the middle east, to convene on the basis of international legitimacy under the supervision and auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the five permanent member states of the Security Council and the parties concerned, including the PLO on an equal footing and with the same rights as the other parties.

2. The congress affirms... the right of all oppressed peoples under occupation to use all forms of struggle for their liberation and national independence.

3. The congress calls on the United States to recognise the right of the Palestinian people to determine its fate and set up its independent state, to abandon its policy of bias in favour of Israel, stop the unlimited support which it gives to it... The congress calls on the United States to agree to convene the international Middle East peace conference as soon as possible... The congress similarly asks the United States to repeal all the laws and legislation hostile to the PLO which the U.S. Congress has passed so its dialogue with us can reach positive results.

Hekmatyar criticises Iran over Soviet ties

ISLAMABAD (R) — A radical Afghan rebel group denounced Iran Tuesday for its rapprochement with the Soviet Union, saying Tehran was now opposing Islamic revolution in Afghanistan.

A statement from Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami party said it was surprised and dismayed by the new position taken by Iran, a rebel supporter throughout the 11-year-old civil war.

"We expected that Muslim countries would not extend the hand of friendship to those who are the murderers of about 1.5 million Afghans."

"It is sad that a government that claims to be the Islamic revolutionary government is opposing Islamic revolution in Afghanistan," said the statement, issued in Pakistan.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Monday that Iran had now adopted a "wholly positive attitude" to the Afghan conflict and praised its "realism."

He visited Tehran last week for talks with Iran's new president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Afterwards both men noted their positions on Afghanistan had grown closer.

Mujahideen guerrillas operate mainly out of Pakistan, whose government has given them political support and freedom of movement and fuelled Western and other arms to them.

Some groups, such as Hezb-i-Islami's biggest rival, Jamiat-i-Islami, have also had bases and supply routes through Iran and have tried hard to remain on good terms with Tehran.

The seven Pakistan-based parties are all Sunni Muslims. Iran has concentrated its support on fellow Shi'ite Muslims from central Afghanistan, a minority which has kept aloof from the rebel government-in-exile in Pakistan.

Hezb-i-Islami, a tightly-disciplined party seeking to install its own brand of modern Islamic society, has long had difficulties with Tehran. The Iranian government closed its offices there six years ago.

Hezb-i-Islami said Iran had supported a ceasefire without any change in the political situation, instead of demanding that Moscow halt arms supplies to President Najibullah's government.

"This is really disheartening for the Mujahideen," it said.

It added that it hoped Iran would review its Afghan policy and either stop befriending the Soviet Union or make this friendship dependent on an end to what it called Soviet interference in Afghanistan.

Rocket barrage

An intense rebel rocket barrage hit Kabul Monday, killing at least eight people and plunging the city into a state of fear.

More than 40 surface-to-surface missiles cut a swath across the capital, setting fire to a vegetable market and the city's only luxury hotel, and hitting homes and streets where children were playing. One rocket landed in the Soviet embassy compound, damaging some buildings, the official Soviet news agency TASS reported from Moscow. It said nothing about casualties.

The Afghan news agency Bakhtar said 37 rockets killed eight people and injured 19, and missiles were still falling after the agency report. Hospitals said 10 people were killed and at least 25 wounded, including a 10-year-old boy who lost both legs and a six-month-old boy whose chest was crushed.



THEOLOGIAN ON TRIAL: Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind Egyptian theologian who

went on trial on subversion charges in Cairo earlier this week looks out of his court room cell.

Bashir assures U.S. of desire to end civil war

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudanese military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has assured the United States that his government was keen to find a comprehensive settlement to the six-year civil war in the south.

State television said Bashir also explained to visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen Monday why he led the June 30 coup that toppled Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's three-year civilian government.

"A democracy that does not feed the people does not deserve to exist," Bashir was quoted as telling Cohen, whose visit was the first high-level contact between Khartoum and Washington since the coup.

Speaking to reporters after their meeting, Bashir said Cohen told him that it was evident to the U.S. government that Mahdi had been unable to solve the country's problems.

The Sudanese leader also quoted Cohen as saying Mahdi's government had used food as a weapon in the war against the southern rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

State television quoted Bashir as saying his government would use dialogue as the sole means to end the war in the south against

the SPLA, fighting to end what it sees as domination of the area by the north.

Since seizing power Bashir has pledged to find a quick and lasting peace in the south, but peace talks with the SPLA which were due to start in Addis Ababa earlier this month were not held. Neither side gave a reason for the delay and no new date has been set.

Cohen arrived Sunday and met Foreign Minister Ali Sahoui and Finance Minister Sayed Ali Zaki Monday as well as Bashir.

The United States is among Sudan's major foreign economic supporters and the largest contributor to relief operations for the famine-hit south of the country. Sudan, however, has fallen into arrears on debt repayments to America, which in turn has limited its humanitarian aid.

Trade unions' appeal

Eight Sudanese trade unions have appealed to the new military government to lift a ban it imposed on their activities when it came to power June 30.

The trade unions made their appeal in a memorandum delivered to the government last week. A copy of the memorandum, dated July 31, was made available to the AP Monday.

The memorandum made it clear that the trade unions reject the government ban and vowed not to accept any government plan for formation of new trade unions.

"We reject the dissolution of trade unions movements and undermining of their legitimacy brought about by democratic elections," the memorandum said.

The appeal underlined "the strong commitment" of the trade unions to "the confidence of the people who elected us democratically."

"We call for lifting the guard from the headquarters of the trade unions and for allowing the trade unions to perform their activities and serve the interest of their members," the appeal said.

It said representatives of the trade unions should supervise any future elections in the country.

Bashir has said that his government plans to work out a new law to reactivate the trade unions. He said the banned trade unions had been politicised by previous regimes and that the new law would limit its activities to serving the interests of its members.

Iranian leaders deeply divided over U.S. policy

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's leaders were deeply divided over relations with the United States Monday, with radical Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi calling for an anti-American offensive.

In an emotional appeal from the grave of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Mohtashemi took a far tougher line towards Washington than the new president, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Declaring that thousands of Shi'ite Muslims were ready to die to bring down the superpowers, he said a softening of Khomeini's anti-American crusade would lead to Iran's enslavement.

"The imam (Khomeini) always attacked. He always had an offensive posture towards the United States," Mohtashemi said. His speech, Sunday night, was broadcast on Tehran Radio late Monday.

He did not mention Rafsanjani's offer last Friday, welcomed by Washington, to cooperate with the United States to resolve the Lebanese crisis and free hostages held there.

Mohtashemi, 43, who lost three fingers when a parcel bomb exploded in his hands in 1984, is widely admired among Shi'ite groups holding U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

He said Shi'ites should be ready to shed their blood against

the United States.

"Around the world, there are numerous Hizbollah (Party of God) cells, created by the holy breath of imam, which cry the death of the superpowers and world arrogance," he said.

His speech was the strongest indication since Rafsanjani was elected Iran's president last month of the depth of anti-American feeling among some key figures in Tehran.

Iranian analysts in the Gulf say Rafsanjani may purge Mohtashemi when he names a new cabinet this month. Sources close to parliamentarians in Tehran said there were stormy meetings last weekend over the cabinet's composition.

Mohtashemi, a former ambassador in Damascus, stood out among Iranian leaders last week by calling for harsh reprisals for Israel's kidnapping of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah movement in South Lebanon.

Hizbollah is believed to be behind the kidnapping of most of the 17 Western hostages believed held in Lebanon. Both Iran and Hizbollah deny any role in hostage-taking.

A clandestine group said it handed an American hostage, Marine Colonel William Higgins, to avenge the kidnapping of Obeid.

MIDDLEEAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Two U.N. soldiers die in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two U.N. peacekeepers died Monday and four were wounded when an armoured personnel carrier they were patrolling is overturned, a U.N. official said. U.N. spokesman Timor Golsak said the accident occurred as the soldiers, from a Nepalese battalion in the peacekeeping force, were on patrol near their headquarters in the western sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The four wounded soldiers were evacuated to a U.N. hospital in Naqurah, where they are reportedly in good condition. The 5,800-man, nine-nation U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is headquartered in Naqurah in South Lebanon. The two deaths raised the number of peacekeepers killed in Lebanon to 165.

Iran allocates \$28m for addict camps

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has allocated \$28 million to finance a network of labour camps to hold drug addicts, a senior official said Monday. Tehran Radio quoted Mokhtar Kalantari, deputy commander of Iran's anti-drug headquarters, as saying 55,000 addicts would be detained in the camps at any one time. The radio said Sunday that 18,400 addicts had been rounded up since July 23 when addiction became an offence under a tough anti-narcotics law enacted in January. Iran has executed at least 772 people on drug charges this year. Judicial officials have pledged to continue the crackdown as long as necessary to save the country's estimated one million addicts. Kalantari said roads and border posts were built along Iran's eastern border with Afghanistan and Pakistan to block the flow of narcotics into the country. But he said gaps of up to 20 kilometres between border posts had to be filled by barbed wire, canals, minefields or additional outposts.

Cyprus to expel Lebanese as illegal aliens

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (R) — Eleven Lebanese who tried to flee from their war-torn country to Cyprus in a small boat are to be expelled as illegal immigrants, police said Monday. A police launch escorted the boat, which was discovered sailing without lights about a kilometre from the coast, to the port of Limassol after it failed to contact the authorities. Three of the men identified themselves as crew. The others, who had clothes and hard currency with them, said they wanted to use Cyprus as a transit point in their flight. Police said the Lebanese, who had been in custody since Sunday, would probably be put back on their boat and expelled. Thousands of Lebanese have fled via Cyprus since fierce artillery battles began in mid-March.

'Asia's tallest man' dies

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian actor described as the tallest man in Asia died of a heart attack while shooting a scene in a marketplace in central Tehran, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. Quoting Kayhan newspaper, the agency said Mahmoud Lotfi, 235 centimetres tall, collapsed before the cameras and died on the way to hospital. He was 64. Lotfi became famous for playing a half-wit butcher in a popular Iranian television serial in the late 1970s. He weighed 125 kg. Kayhan said a thyroid gland malfunction made him the tallest man in Asia. The 1989 Guinness Book of Records lists Mozambican Gabriel Estevao Monjane, 45, as the world's tallest living man at 245.7 centimetres. It does not list a record-holder for Asia.

Iraq opens satellite station

BAGHDAD (R) — Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Hanza Al Zubaidi Monday opened Iraq's first satellite communications ground station. The Iraqi News Agency said the 4.7 million dinar (\$15 million) station could carry 38 telephone channels, 240 telegraphic channels and two television channels. Hanza said it will enable Iraq to bypass a Jordanian ground station and receive directly from Arabsat, the Arab telecommunications satellite launched in 1985.

Cheney meets Egyptian counterpart

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney met for the first time Monday with Egyptian Defence Minister Yousef Sabri Abu Taleb and said afterwards that they had established "a sound working relationship." Cheney, who took over the U.S. Defence Department earlier this spring, pledged to meet regularly and work closely with his Egyptian counterpart, who was named to his post in April. The Defence Department chief added that he intends to visit Egypt early next year. "I believe we've established a sound working relationship as well as a close personal friendship," Cheney said in remarks to reporters. "It is well known that Egypt has long been an influential voice for moderation in the Middle East and an advocate for a just and lasting peace in the region. A militarily strong, politically stable Egypt is critical to our efforts in the search for this elusive peace," Cheney said. The main purpose of Abu Taleb's visit to the United States, the first since he was appointed defence minister, was to get acquainted with key Bush administration officials. Abu Taleb said the talks were conducted "in a spirit of cooperation and commitment. It has reassured me that we are both dedicated to keeping our relationship strong and thriving."

Kuwait hangs Indian for killing

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait hanged an Indian Monday for killing a bus driver and a ticket collector in a dispute over a 150 fils fare, the Kuwait Times said. Francisco Arango, 37, while on bus in February, 1988, paid for two fares but felt he had been cheated over his change, the newspaper said. He argued with the ticket collector who punched Arango in the nose. After he and his friend got off, Arango went back to the bus stop. By himself and waited for the bus to return. He knifed the ticket collector and then stabbed the bus driver when he tried to intervene. Arango, who pleaded guilty to murder, was hanged in the central prison, the newspaper said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 7711-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:00 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo News Message
18:25 Local programme
19:00 Local programme
19:05 Programme review
19:10 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:40 Local programme
22:25 Wrestling
23:10 Varieties programme
PROGRAMME TWO
18:10 Loft story
18:30 Des Chitres Et de Lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le d'Heure Procope
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:35 News in Arabic
20:30 "You can't take it with you"
21:10 Piccadilly
22:00 News in English
22:30 Rock the Ripper

PRAYER TIMES

6:45 Fajr
12:07 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:21 Asr
19:32 Maghreb
20:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrace Church Tel. 622360
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 623583
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Eleanora Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615817, 821364

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Normal summer weather conditions will continue and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

AMMAN

Min./max. temp. 19 / 32

Aqaba 27 / 39

Dead Sea 20 / 37

Jordan Valley 25 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32.5, Aqaba 39.2, Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab 602507
Dr. Adel Dahdab 893644
Dr. Amjed Nawras 781806
Dr. Mufeed Tannous 884480
First pharmacy 661912
Second pharmacy 783336
Al Asmaa pharmacy 670535
Nawrokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660
JERUSALEM:
Dr. Lawrence Badr (—)
Dr. Salah Al Safarini (983238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Al Safarini (—)
Khashif pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Police 92, 92111, 92777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771221
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896290
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603880
Police Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 010230
Overseas Calls 121
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)
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Khayyat, WIC officials discuss aid for Palestine

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Means of protecting holy places in Palestine and providing assistance to needy families in the occupied territories were discussed here Tuesday by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and members of the World Islamic Council (WIC).

Discussion also covered launching investment and production projects benefiting these families, according to a statement Tuesday.

It said that the minister stressed the need to provide assistance

to the oppressed people of the occupied Arab lands for the sake of bolstering their steadfastness and foiling Zionist conspiracies designed to obliterate Islamic culture and evacuate Arab people from their homes.

Dr. Khayyat also reviewed with the WIC members — who have just concluded a meeting in Amman — a number of charitable and Awqaf projects in the Kingdom to be implemented through the Zakat Fund which is operated by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Work begins on new hospital in Karak

KARAK (J.T.) — Work on the infrastructure of a new hospital for Karak, in southern Jordan, is expected to be completed in the coming few months, after which work on the first phase of a modern hospital will start, National Medical Institution (NMI) Director General Daoud Hanania announced here Tuesday.

He said that the infrastructure is being laid by a local construction firm at the cost of JD 500,000, but the hospital project itself will be set up by the Italian government at the cost of \$7 million.

Hanania made the statement at a ceremony for inaugurating the new annex to the existing hospital in Karak which includes outpatient clinics. Hanania inspected different parts of the annex and was briefed on services to the public.

He said that the NMI set up the annex to cope with the increasing demand on medical services, and added that nearly 600 outpatients visit the hospital on a daily basis.

Hanania said that the annex includes five new clinics for various specialisations including gynaecology and paediatrics.

According to Hanania, the Italian sponsored hospital will include 100 beds in the first stage and could later be expanded to have 200 beds, which together with the present Karak Hospital, will be sufficient for the southern governorate until the year 2000.

After the inaugural ceremony, Hanania visited the old government hospital and inspected its sections. He met doctors and officials to learn about their views and said that the coming weeks will witness the start of improvements in the hospital.

ACC ministers agree to regulate labour

AMMAN (J.T.) — The four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have agreed on a set of measures to regulate the employment and transportation of workers within the ACC group and set up committees to unify laws governing labour related affairs.

The announcement was made by Labour Minister Jamal Bdour upon his return here from Baghdad where he took part in a meeting to discuss labour affairs concerning Jordan, Iraq, Egypt

and North Yemen. Bdour noted that the meeting also dealt with the unification of laws on social security for workers, training labourers, vocational training programmes and the establishment of a data bank for the Arab labour markets in the four ACC states.

The meeting was in harmony with a general strategy drawn up by the heads of the four countries at their latest summit meeting in Alexandria, the minister said.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CULTURAL FESTIVAL: On the anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to throne, a public library project will be opened and a cultural festival will be held at the township of Eder in the Karak Governorate. The festival includes an exhibition of historical documents entitled "the King, the Leader," a national book exhibition, a children's book exhibition, and studies related to children and their drawings. The festival also includes educational films. (Petra)

CROWN PRINCE CONDOLES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday delegated the Irbid Governorate police director to convey his condolences to Al Sharideh family on the death of former Parliament member Hamzeh Al Sharideh. Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker also delegated the Irbid Governorate police assistant director to convey his condolences. (Petra)

MAJALI RECEIVES U.S. ENVOYS: Minister of Culture and Information Nasouh Al Majali Tuesday received U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roscoe Suddarth and the new Director of U.S. Information Service, Johnathan Owens. (Petra)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION: The First National Exhibition for Science and Technology was opened Tuesday at the Professional Association Complex. The exhibition includes a number of inventions and scientific achievements by Jordanian youths in addition to a collection of specialised scientific and technological books. The week-long exhibition is designed to acquaint the public with the creative capabilities of Jordanian youth.

INCREASE IN POWER GENERATION: The electric power generated and consumed in Jordan during the first quarter of this year witnessed a respective increase of 7.7 per cent and 9.1 per cent over the same period last year. (Petra)

CENTRE TREATS 239 FOR SPEECH, HEARING: The National Speech and Hearing Centre in Amman presented specialised medical care to a total of 239 cases in July. These cases included 103 cases in hearing and 136 cases in speech. (Petra)

CONFERENCE ON CARDIAC DISEASE: Jordan will take part in an international conference on cardiac diseases which will be held in Toronto, Canada on Sept. 4, according to Dr. Zakaria Daoud from the Jordan University Hospital. Daoud said that the six-day conference will discuss two working papers to be submitted by the University of Jordan dealing with heart diseases and treatment, and the effects of smoking and other social habits on heart ailments.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rahab Sughayyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shamsi.
- ★ A photo exhibition entitled "Redonda Today" by Japanese photographer Koji Sato at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Thamoud Thair" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Ajloun area villages move towards development

Away from the huddle and bubble of the busy, fashionable, modern life in the capital city, there are dozens of villages strewn around the Kingdom. For some of them electricity, radio and television are a novelty, for others it is a matter of water and basic amenities. While the authorities do know that there are problems, the major task is to identify them on a case-by-case basis and seek solutions. Her Majesty Queen Noor has taken the lead in identifying problems with first-hand information on these areas. Subair Obaidat reports on a field visit the Queen made to some villages in the north Tuesday.

TRAVELLING to Ajloun, north of Amman, one is encountered with many tired faces, relentlessly beaten with the rough weather and hard living conditions.

Yet the inhabitants of Ajloun and the surrounding villages, like the mountains that characterise the area, stand firm in the face of hardships.

Though relatively distant, the villages of Waqqas, Khirbet Al

Wahdaneh, Rabadeh and Smadi, are not completely isolated. In slow but steady steps, the government of Jordan continues its efforts to establish a solid infrastructure in that region.

In a recent wave of attention, "of the highest level," that swept the area, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Tuesday visited the villages and listened to the requests of the inhabitants.

Though considered as one of the most fertile lands in the Kingdom, the inhabitants are not able to fully benefit from their agricultural lands.

"We are not allowed to uproot the forest trees and plant olive and fruit trees instead," Ra'ed Wahdan, a farmer, said to the Jordan Times.

According to Wahdan, another obstacle facing the farmers is the lands law of 1985, which forbids the division of lands that are less than 10 dunums.

"It makes it impossible for partners to cultivate their lands freely," another farmer said.

Fawaz Smadi, a father of 14, owns a land that he has not been able to cultivate for 25 years. "Regrettably, I had to resort to

another means of living, so I opened a small grocery shop. My monthly income does not, in the best of cases, exceed JD 60, which is hardly enough to feed my large family," he said.

Even when the farmers want to plant their lands, they are faced with the problem of inaccessibility, even by foot. "There is an urgent need to open farm roads to lead to these lands, to make it possible for us to transport the products to the neighbouring villages," Smadi said.

Pigs are found in great numbers in that area, and the damage they do to the farms is great.

"These animals eat everything, and we are forced to stand helplessly as they venture into our farms and eat our fruits and vegetables. We ask that the prices of wire fences be reduced, so that we would be able to properly protect our land," a distressed farmer said.

Choosing animal husbandry as an occupation, is not that easy either. With 10,000 heads of cattle, the area lacks the sufficient pasturelands to meet the needs of this great number. "This is coupled with the fact that grain and fodder are very expensive," Wahdan said.

Expenses never come to an end in such a place. Due to the random distribution of houses, the villages suffer the lack of a school and the children have to travel to Ajloun every morning. "Transportation is very inconvenient and even much worse in winter," one of the children complained.

To top it all, the villages are not yet provided with electricity supply, despite the fact that high voltage lines are very close to the area.

"We are still using lanterns, which makes it uncomfortable to study at night," one of the female students said.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday visits villages in the Ajloun area (Petra photo)

Other request presented to the Queen, were the lack of postal service and telephone communication, in addition to the absence of medical services, since the villages do not have resident physicians.

As an immediate consequence to the Queen's inspection of the villages, a number of measures were taken to answer the requests of the inhabitants.

Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran, who attended the royal visit, ordered these lands to be included in the highland development project. The project is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, in agreement with the World Food Programme. It includes the conservation and reclamation of land and planting food and olive trees.

Farm roads are to be cleared and fences and retaining walls are to be built to protect the lands.

According to the minister, the government is already subsidising

the prices of grains by 40-50 per cent.

It was also announced that the Minister of Education, Abdulkh Nsour, has instructed the rental of a building to function as an elementary school all the way to the fourth grade, until a new school is built.

The fruitful visit also led to the agreement of the Ministry of Health to send a doctor to villages on a periodic basis.

The doctor is to give immunisations, perform check-ups, convey medical awareness.

The area is also to be provided with a post office, complete with a telephone.

At the end of the visit, the Queen highlighted the fact that there is a need to promote the area on the tourism level, as the area is considered one of the beautiful parts of the Kingdom with its archaeological sites and green landscapes.



University of Jordan receives ARAMCO donation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Saudi Arabian Oil Company (ARAMCO) has made a donation of \$50,000 to the University of Jordan to help it carry out with its educational programmes. A cheque for the sum was delivered by ARAMCO

representative in Amman Jamal Al Sarafz to the University President Dr. Mahmud Al Samra at the latter's office Tuesday. Samra thanked the company for its contribution which he said will promote culture and education for Arab students.

Jordan allows reopening of Palestine fund HQ in Amman

By Rana Sabbagh
Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government has agreed to allow the headquarters of the Palestine National Fund (PNF), the PLO's financial arm, to reopen in Amman after a three-year ban, its chairman said Tuesday.

Jaweed Al Ghusein said the headquarters will be officially inaugurated by the end of next week when Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat visits Amman for talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

"The reopening of the PNF headquarters in Amman will reflect positively on our people inside the Israeli-occupied territories," Ghusein told Reuters in a telephone interview from Abu Dhabi, where he is staying. He did not elaborate. Jordan closed 25 offices of the mainstream Palestinian commando group Fatah led by Arafat, and the PNF, the PLO's ministry of finance, on July 7, 1986 after Fatah criticised Jordan's Middle East policy.

The move did not apply to the other 12 offices of the PLO in Amman.

But the PNF maintained its office and continued to work under the umbrella of the Amman-based Palestine National Council (PNC) — the Palesti-

nian parliament-in-exile — and had two other offices, one in Tunis and the other in Cairo.

It moved to Amman from Beirut in 1982 following Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Arab diplomats said the decision to reopen the headquarters at the request of His Majesty King Hussein, was a further step towards strengthening Jordanian-Palestinian ties following Amman's July 1988 break with the West Bank, united with Jordan since 1950.

"It will have a psychological effect on the steadfastness of Palestinians in the occupied territories who will feel more secure in having the Finance Ministry close to them," one diplomat said.

With Jordan's separation from the occupied territories, Amman ended years of mutual suspicion with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). King Hussein said last month Jordanian-Palestinian ties were never as good as now.

The PLO took its cue from the disengagement to launch peace moves aimed at making political gains from the sacrifices of a 19-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

Ghusein condemned what he called the arbitrary position

of the Israeli occupation authorities towards Palestinians.

"The starvation campaign against our people and the Israeli authorities' imposition of taxes and customs especially on food-stuffs and basic commodities is very dangerous," he said.

At least 580 Palestinians have been killed in the uprising.

The PNF, the central body that controls the finances of the PLO inside and outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, had a budget of 274 million from June 1988 to June 1989.

Fund officials hope the PNF will be able to spend more money than in 1988 as a number of Arab countries have committed themselves to regular monthly payments as of January 1989.

Saudi Arabia is paying \$6 million, the United Arab Emirates \$3 million, Kuwait \$2 million, Iraq \$4.2 million, while Libya has pledged to offer direct aid to Palestinian hospitals, schools and universities.

Other Arab and foreign countries, international agencies and Muslim funds have given direct assistance to Palestinians worth \$170 million since the uprising began in December 1987, fund officials added.

Jordan to attend Hiroshima meeting

KUWAIT (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an annual meeting by the International Organisation of Physicians for the Protection from Nuclear Warfare which will be held in the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Oct. 5.

The conference, which will mark the elapse of 44 years since the dropping of an atomic bomb

on the Japanese city, is expected to last seven days, according to Dr. Nabih Mohammed, who will lead a Jordanian team of physicians to the conference.

He said that the Jordanian delegation, which will group 10 doctors and specialists, will take part in general discussions on means of exercising pressure on major

powers to halt all tests of nuclear weapons.

The Jordanian delegation took part in last year's conference held in Canada and submitted a resolution condemning Israel's nuclear weapons programme and called for the creation of a nuclear free zone in the Middle East region.

Ministry team to study Kuwaiti experience in desalination process

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has left for Kuwait on a two-week visit during which its members will hold meetings with officials in charge of water supply and will inspect Kuwait's sea water desalination plants and solar energy stations employed in the desalination process.

According to a statement here the visit is designed to sound out the possibility of benefitting from

Kuwait's experiments in sea water desalination for possible use in Jordan which has scarce water resources, but plenty of solar energy.

The team of officials and engineers is headed by Mr. Fawzi Abul N'asaj the director of the Department of Organisation and Development.

Jordan already uses solar energy to pump underground water in semi-desert areas and to generate

electric power to areas not covered by the national grid.

The solar energy project is being carried out by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) with assistance from West German institutions.

Most of the Gulf Arab countries, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, own and operate desalination plants to produce drinking water.

57 community colleges to admit students with 50 per cent grades

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 57 community colleges will admit students with a 50 per cent and above grades next month instead of 55 per cent, according to a decision taken by the Council of Higher Education.

The decision which was announced by Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad reverses an earlier decision stipulating that students with 55 per cent average and above can only be admitted to the colleges.

The new decision will allow more than 11,000 students, up from nearly 9,000 to enrol for different specialisations at the public and private colleges in Jordan, according to officials at the Ministry of Higher Education.

The total number of male and female students who passed this year's Tawjihi examination was put at 26,180 of which only 8,875 will be allowed to enrol at the country's four universities, according to Assad who announced this figure at a press conference on July 29.

Assad said that only those with 65 per cent average and above can have a chance to enter the Jordanian universities.

The total number of those who secured the minimum grade of 65

per cent in the final examination was 17,926, the minister said.

The Council of Higher Education, which earlier gave its consent for the establishment of two private universities to cope with the growing demand on university education in Jordan, is due to hold a meeting Saturday to discuss details of regulations for the two projected institutions.

One of the two universities will be established in Balqa region while the other, to be named University of Applied Sciences, will be established in the Amman area.

Conference to promote region's social, economic development

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) is planning a regional conference entitled "safeguarding the future" which will be held in Amman between Oct. 2 and 4 in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHFF), according to an announcement here Tuesday.

Representatives from Ministries of Health, Planning and Social Development in Arab countries as well as the media will be taking part in the conference which will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, according to the conference chairman Janet Al Mufti Dakhqan.

Mrs. Dakhqan told the Jordan Times that the coming conference, the first of its kind to be held in the Arab World, will be conducted through the help of a preparatory committee chaired by herself.

The committee has set up three sub-committees for information, protocol and public relations as well as tourism, each of which will prepare a working plan to be referred to the preparatory committee that has scheduled a meeting for Aug. 29.

The announcement quoted the UNFPA representative in Amman Darwas Alkhas as saying that the convening of the coming conference will be part of the fund's 20th anniversary celebrations.

"The coming conference will no doubt contribute to the strenuous efforts being made in the Arab region towards socio-economic and environmental advancement through improving the process of population growth and distribution on the one hand, and the utilisation of resources in the concerned Arab countries on the other," Alkhas said.

He said that the conference will tackle subjects linked to socio-economic factors influencing the individual and society "with the purpose of arriving at appropriate methods and programmes designed to promote social and economic development in the Arab

World." Arab women's potential contribution in the development process, Alkhas added, will also be investigated by the participants.

The conference will review three main working papers dealing with population distribution and migration, their interrelation with the environment and women and development, Alkhas noted.

The preparatory committee, the announcement said, groups representatives from the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health and Social Development, Planning, Information, Tourism and the General Federation of Jordanian Women, the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the University of Jordan, the National Population Committee and the Greater Amman Municipality.

The preparatory committee held a meeting at the NHFF head office in Amman Tuesday to discuss various issues related to the coming conference.

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On the right track

FORTUNATELY the Jordanian dinar has been firming against a basket of hard currencies of late as a result of a string of effective measures taken by the Central Bank of Jordan and amid persistent reports that Arab financial aid has already resumed. All these positive economic and financial news will surely bolster even further Amman's determination to recover from its recent economic and fiscal woes. One can also be sure that the initial good news already achieved will snowball into even more confidence building developments.

Still the onus of responsibility to help Jordan help itself falls on the people of Jordan who clearly have the biggest stake in accelerating the recovery process of their country. There are many ways available to Jordanians to perform their solemn duties in this regard. To begin with they can soften their seemingly insatiable lust for hard currencies for no apparent need except to serve as a hedge against the devaluation of their primary currency, the Jordanian dinar. By decreasing the demand on foreign currencies, the dinar stands to register gains against such currencies. Thus Jordanians can achieve their primary objective of restoring to their national currency its rightful value by arresting the hysterical demand for hard currencies.

Also by rationalising their spending habits whether traditional or contemporary, the people would help a great deal their government and country cope with the economic and fiscal difficulties. Many of these habits are deep-rooted and touch on the traditional Arab sense of generosity. Others have grown over the years especially during and in the wake of the golden era in the late seventies and early eighties. While it will take time to affect readjustments in such spending customs, a beginning must be made now. There are growing signs that Jordanians have already begun this process of readjustment due to sheer economic constraints on their budgets. In this vein, the impending decision to establish a consumer protection society is most welcome news. Such a society is very much in demand to complement the public interest in rationalising their expenditures by protecting them from abuse and exploitation. It is therefore comforting to note that preparatory work for the establishment and registering such a public service organ has been virtually completed.

All in all, the emerging picture in Jordan is most encouraging. The economy in the country is moving ahead once again with vigour and the financial picture is also improving at comfortable speed. Fortunately, all these developments are beginning to take place with the cooperation and understanding of the public.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies on Tuesday dwelt on Jordan's stand-vis-a-vis the Middle East question in the light of King Hussein's meeting with U.S. envoy John Kelly. Al Ra'i daily said that the King has reaffirmed Jordan's stands and principles with regard to the problem and demanded that a just and permanent solution be found to ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. The paper said that the PLO is now in charge of the Palestinian people and their destiny, and since the organisation has pledged to work for peace, the United States should help carry out U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which guarantee Palestinian people's rights in their land. Washington ought to shoulder its responsibility towards peace and should find a way of ending Israel's intransigence and remove obstacles in the path of peace, the paper added. We are confident that what John Kelly heard in Amman was identical to Egyptian views which back the PLO's position, the paper noted. It said that it is clear for the United States that Israel refuses to pull out its forces from the Arab lands occupied since 1967 and this is the chronic problem that impedes a peace formula.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily discusses the question of Jordanian students who are about to go to Egypt for higher education. Salah Abdul Samad says that many of our students join others in their studies at Egyptian universities and these should be allowed to pay their fees in Jordanian currency in the light of the present difficulties to obtain foreign exchange. The writer urges the Jordanian government to approach the Egyptian authorities to help our students to pay in Egyptian pounds which are easier to come by these days. As long as Jordan and Egypt are members of the Arab Cooperation Council and continue to work for the same goals and objectives, it is only natural to try to seek help for Jordanian students in this regard and it is only natural for Egypt and Jordan to show a greater measure of cooperation towards serving their own people, the writer adds. We also hope, continues the writer, that the general secretariat of the Arab Cooperation Council which is based in Amman will take the initiative and settle this issue without awaiting any formal protocol in this matter.

Sawt Al Shaab daily newspaper said that with the conclusion of John Kelly's tour of the Middle East it is hoped that the U.S. administration has accumulated sufficient information about the situation in the area and is in a position to take action. The daily said that the envoy has heard from King Hussein Jordan's views; and a reiteration by Egypt and Jordan over the need to resolve the Palestine problem and to grant the Palestinians the right to self-determination. The paper also reaffirmed that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians and that the U.S. administration should recognise this fact, and realise that the organisation is assuming full responsibility for the future of the Palestinian people. Let us hope that Bush administration will now act with wisdom and with speed to put an end to the Israeli atrocities and help bring about peace.

ECOLIGHT

My neighbour, my joker

AN OLD joke goes like this: A man, involved in a car accident was wrapped up in bandages from head to toe. Strapped to hangers by the hand and foot, his visiting old friend asks: How do you feel? "Does it hurt?" The man answered: "Only when I laugh."

The Jerusalem Post, in its July 26, 1989 issue, published an article by David Rosenberg in which he contends that Jordan's domestic and foreign debts add up to \$15.0 billion. He goes on with the same strain to analyse Jordan's socio-political set-up. If ever there was an armchair off-the-cuff lazy analysis, Rosenberg would win the prize.

Before we analyse the situation in Jordan, which the Israelis have devoted lately a great deal of their attention to, let us look at the Israeli debt. According to their own and international statistics, in the years 1986-1988, Israel's foreign outstanding debt (excluding short-term liabilities) averaged \$25.8 billion. In December 1988, the Israeli foreign debt was \$25.1 billion. If we add to it domestic borrowing, we find that the 1988 figure jumps to \$45.6 billion. On average, this means an Israeli who is born today inherits an outstanding debt of approximately \$11,000, by far the biggest in the world. In contrast, a Brazilian owes \$800, and a Mexican \$1,100.

However, this large debt could have been much higher had it not been for the generous contribution made to Israel annually from official and private foreign sources. Israel received on average aid over the period 1986-1988 of \$4.9 billion annually. These exclude war reparations, free medication, easy access for export markets, facilities from international commercial banks, favourable treatment in the U.S. and other West European countries, technological accessibility that is denied to others, illegal exports, money laundering activities, arms sales, and favourable media coverage. All of these factors still did not help Israel from being the worst debtor in the world.

Despite all claims that the Israeli economy has recovered, it always demonstrated a high degree of vulnerability. In the mid-seventies and beyond, the Israeli economy went bananas. Heading to adjustment counsel by the famous Milton Friedman, hyper-inflation and unemployment frustrated the Israeli economy. Had it not been for the unlimited generous support of others, Israel would have been in a very deep mess. Israel's economic performance is indeed a showcase. All Israeli intelligence and study centres that devote so much time to the salvation of the Jewish state are making very slight difference to an economy that has survived by financing a war machine.

The Israeli commentators think that, by slandering the Jordanian economy their problems would disappear. It is no wonder they are engaged in such slandering with vehemence. If it hurts when they laugh, then let them hysterically do so. The debt of Jordan as is well-known does not exceed \$8.2 billion both domestic and foreign. That makes it on average 25 per cent of the burden of Israel as based on per capital shares.

The intifada has served as an example which demonstrated how fragile the Israeli economy can be. Denied the \$800 million net income accruing from the West Bank and Gaza, the Israeli economy is showing signs of fatigue. Prices are going up. Between 1986 and April 1989, the consumer index increased by 150 per cent, discount interest rate is around 17 per cent, and real wages are declining. Historically speaking, wars became Israel's bread and butter. Now wars and expansion are very expensive and their cost-effectiveness is very low indeed. What would they do next in the face of mounting economic pressure? Their best bid is to try to destabilise the region in order to convince the superpowers that they can play a role for which they hope to cash on. The stability of Jordan implies a high opportunity cost to Israel. No wonder they are so keen to use the media in order to project their problems on Jordan.

By Jawad Anani

After 20 years of strife, a glimmer of hope

ON Aug. 14, 1969, British troops deployed in Northern Ireland to quell a mass outbreak of communal violence. Twenty years and 2,740 deaths later, the violence continues and a political solution remains elusive. But much has changed in the British-ruled province, and some observers even see a glimmer of hope. Associated Press correspondent Marcus Eliason, who has covered the province for nearly five years, reports.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — All Mrs. Murphy's neighbours are gone.

The stonings and firebombings proved more than they could bear, so the authorities tore down the houses and sent the Catholics and Protestants off to live among their own.

Everybody left except Susan Murphy. She's a feisty woman, proud of the three-story row house she and her husband bought 33 years ago, when Roe Street was so peaceful that "every day was like Sunday."

Now the house stands alone in a no-man's land, its windows protected by steel mesh, with steel railings running the length of Roe Street and a tall corrugated wall separating the Murphys from their Protestant neighbours.

And all this happened not 20 years ago, when "the troubles" were at their worst, but in the late 1980s. The houses razed five months ago were not dilapidated hovels but brand-new showcases of a new Belfast rising from the Victorian slums.

"It's something of an indictment of society here," says Ivan Maginnis of the Housing Executive that had to take the decision. "It's an awful tragedy."

It's easy to conclude from this 600,000-pound (\$1-million) exercise in futility that little has changed in Northern Ireland since British troops arrived here on Aug. 14, 1969, to separate rioting Protestants from their Catholic neighbours.

The death toll is over 2,740 and rising almost week by week. The Catholic unemployment rate is 2½ times that of Protestants. A political solution still looks far off.

Glimmer of hope

And yet one finds a glimmer of optimism in Northern Ireland today.

Violence has diminished from a peak of 467 killings in 1972 to an average of 80 a year in the 1980s. Recent elections suggest a weakening of the hard-liners on either side of the divide, and a

boost for the moderates.

In the Irish Republic, the political mold shaped in the country's 1921-23 civil war has cracked and opened new possibilities for a solution that can accommodate both Unionist and Nationalist in Northern Ireland — Unionists being the majority Protestants intent on retaining union with Britain, and Nationalists being the 40 per cent Catholic minority whose aspirations lean to Ireland.

The Irish government has not renounced its claim to Northern Ireland. It simply doesn't state it too loudly. It is in consensus with the British government that nothing can change without Protestant consent.

In half a dozen of Northern Ireland's 26 district councils, moderate Catholics and Protestants have joined in coalitions to

shut out the extremists on both sides.

Dungannon, a town of 15,000 in the centre of the province, was once a bastion of Unionist supremacy and discrimination. Now its mixed council has a committee to promote cross-community understanding, and sends Protestant and Catholic children on holidays together.

The whole island, north and south, is in intellectual ferment over the prospect of a united Europe that will subsume old Nationalist rivalries.

"National sovereignty is changing its whole meaning in European terms. The nation state is disappearing. So the fundamental reason for the quarrel between Britain and Ireland is now gone," says John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the province's main Catholic Nationalist Party.

A backwater 20 years ago, Northern Ireland now has air links to European holiday resorts. A burgeoning Catholic middle class hungers for stability. A retail boom has transformed

the bomb-blackened city centres of Belfast and Londonderry.

Aidan O'Reilly's family was driven out of their home in 1973 by Protestant mobs. Married now with a baby son, O'Reilly owns a house in a quiet Belfast suburb. He is one of the thousands who look back on the bad old days and pray they never return.

Buying stability

By pouring some \$2.25 billion a year into the province, Britain can actually buy pockets of stability. Councillor Anthony McGonnell, a 40-year-old schoolteacher, says Dungannon's new approach is helped along by the knowledge that "if a council is seen to be trying to work together, central government is much more sympathetic towards it."

Ralph Brown, a 52-year-old Unionist councillor whose appliances store on Dungannon's main street has been damaged 11 times by IRA bombs, strongly backs municipal power-sharing.

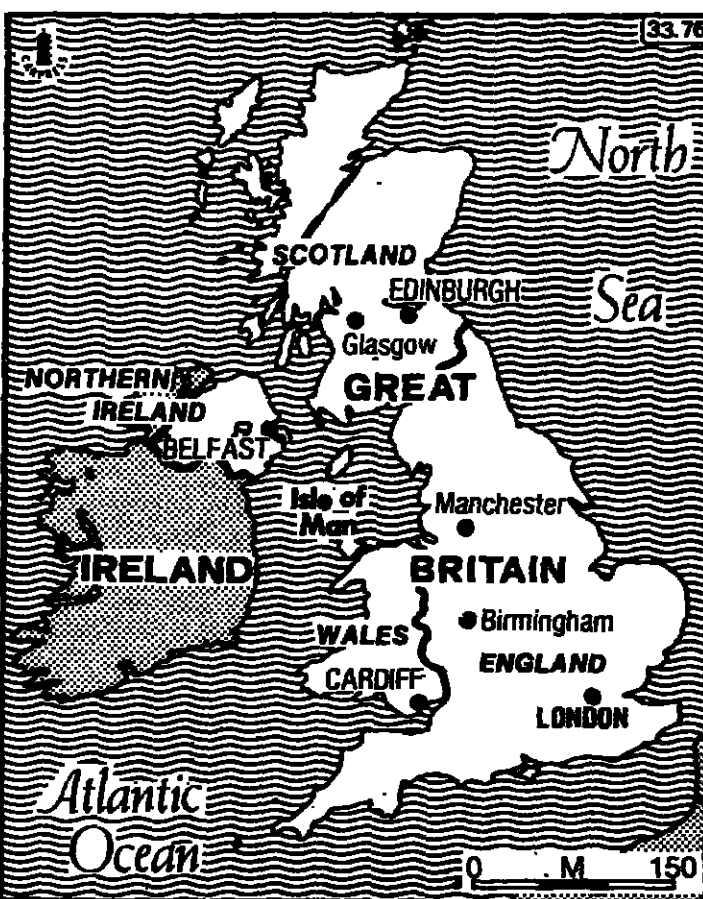
"A lot of trust has been built up," he says. "People are really bending over backward at the moment to try and ensure that nothing major goes wrong."

Paul Bew, a respected analyst at Queen's University, says Belfast was deeply pessimistic in the mid-1980s. Now he feels things are looking up.

"I am more modestly optimistic about some kind of accommodation in Ireland than I have been for a long, long time," he says. Hume suggests a round-table conference of all the parties — Irish, British and Northern Irish — to define the problem, then solve it. Unionists prefer some sort of power-sharing arrangement with Catholics, provided the Irish government is not involved. That distance between the two positions is great, but at least the two sides are talking about solutions.

The trouble is that life is not improving in the blue-collar ghettos, where pockets of 80 per cent unemployment provide plenty of recruits for the Irish Republican army and Sinn Fein, its political backer in the campaign to rid Northern Ireland of British rule and unite the island.

Sinn Fein's Francis McCann, a Belfast city councillor, says none of the prosperity of recent years has reached his constituency.



OPEN FORUM

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I am sitting in the dark,
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For me to have,
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مكتبة الأهل

Saadawi champions woman's struggle in a male world

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO — Nawal Al Saadawi has spent time in prison, had armed guards posted outside her front door for her own protection and had some of her work banned because of her campaign for an Arab women's revolt in a male world.

"The authorities telephoned me in 1987 and said they were putting guards outside my house because I was in danger," said the ebullient, white-haired Egyptian novelist.

The 24-hour guard remained there 18 months — apparently because of threats from Muslim militants who regarded one of her books in particular, "The Fall of The Imam", as heresy.

The imam or Islamic leader in question is a sinister symbol of Pharaonic power — a man or combination of men claiming divine authority.

The book is heavily satirical, and involves the imam going to heaven and asking God for a reprieve from death. But he has difficulty in getting past reception.

For Saadawi, the imam represents "dictatorship" in the form of late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, former Sudanese leader Jaafar Numeiri, now exiled in Cairo, and late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"It's all of them," she said. "To me God is justice and freedom. God is an idea inside each of us. In that sense, I'm very religious."

She was dismissed from a senior government position in 1972 because of her political views and the way she expressed them.

In 1984, her novel "God Dies by the Nile" was banned in Egypt

but Saadawi found a publisher in Beirut prepared to print it.

She has been writing since 1955 and a constant theme has been woman's struggle against subjugation by the religious and political authority of men.

"I cannot distinguish between class and gender struggle," she told Reuters. "I am against authority embodied in certain men in both public and private life."

Speaking up for womanhood has a long history in Egypt, which hosted the first Arab women's feminist conference in the 1930s and has long led the Arab World in moving towards equality of the sexes.

In 1834 a religious mentor of students, Sheikh Rifa'a Rafi Tahtawi, wrote the first book calling for the education of women and an improvement in their social status.

Qassem Amin, a judge, became known as the liberator of women after his books, "Liberation of Women" and "The New Woman", were published at the turn of the century.

Saadawi was packed off to jail by Sadat with thousands of others in 1981, but her imprisonment ended with his assassination by Muslim zealots on October 6 the same year.

In jail she met a woman named Firdaus, on whom she based her novel "Woman at Point Zero".

It tells of a village girl raped at an early age and forced into prostitution who finds that money and well-publicised acts of charity can provide respectability in a society devoted to material gain and status.

A brief flirtation with revolutionary ideas develops into murderous rebellion against sexual enslavement and the threat of execution. It is a grim tale written with the melodrama and simplicity of a thriller.

Saadawi wrote of prison in "The Arrest" and in the preface she paints an austere portrait of herself as an outsider.

"I don't say yes and I don't take part in elections," she wrote. "I don't walk in processions. I have no cliques. I don't go to parties. I don't put on makeup like other women, and don't wash my hair with American shampoo. I don't drink Israeli beer and I feel sick when I read the papers."

Saadawi's feminist campaign does not end with novels. As a qualified psychiatrist she helps young women suffering from emotional or mental turmoil, and in 1982 she founded the Arab Women's Solidarity Association.

"It is a Pan-Arab organisation devoted to promoting women economically, culturally and politically," she said.

The association was legalised in Egypt once it gained consultative status with U.N. agencies in 1985. Even so Saadawi said the government blocked public distribution of the first issue of the association's monthly magazine, N.

Once on Sadat's black list, Saadawi insisted that she was still not completely free in President Hosni Mubarak's Egypt.

"I'm on a grey list, without access to (writing for) television or radio and my occasional contributions to newspapers are subject to haphazard censorship," she said.

Her husband, Sherif Hetata, is also a qualified doctor who has devoted himself to writing since 1971. A Marxist who spent 14 years behind bars from 1949, he too was one of Egypt's intellectual outsiders.

"It is very difficult to establish yourself as a widely-read novelist in Egypt without access to the media," he said.



Saadawi: To me god is justice and freedom

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Global warming: sharing the sacrifices

By John Michael Kramer

The writer is a Senior Natural Resources Specialist with the International Resources Group in Washington DC.

MOST of the "greenhouse" gases responsible for global warming are being produced by the developed world. The United States alone accounts for over one fifth. Other Western and Eastern European industrial nations contribute a similar amount each. The developing world's contribution is currently very low primarily carbon dioxide from deforestation in a few countries.

Everyone, however, will suffer. The effects of global warming are not only felt by the polluter. Although warming effects will be more severe in temperate zones, sea levels will rise everywhere. And the scale of the predicted change will have major implications for climate globally, even though their nature is still unclear.

There is growing consensus among scientists that, unless steps are taken to slow the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere, the world's average temperature will rise between 2-6 degrees Centigrade by the end of the 21st century.

This warming will change the world by shifting climatic zones, disrupting agriculture, threaten-

ing survival of forests, raising sea levels and inundating low-lying coastal areas, causing drought and flooding in areas accustomed to moderate weather. The effect on people throughout the world could be worse than anything experienced in recorded history.

Why is it happening? Essentially it is because the greenhouse gases include a number of chemical compounds which help to retain heat in the earth's atmosphere instead of letting it bleed off into space.

They include carbon dioxide (CO2) from the burning of fossil fuels and plant material (mainly forests); methane (CH4) from livestock, landfills and rice paddies; chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used in air conditioners and refrigerators; and nitrous oxide (NO2) from nitrogen fertilizer use, fossil fuel and biomass burning, and land clearing. Carbon dioxide accounts for about half of the greenhouse effect.

There are three ways we can respond to global warming. We can try to adapt to increased temperatures; or we could try to slow global warming to tolerable levels; or attempt some combination of the two.

It is conceivable that agriculture and commercial forestry might adapt to a hotter climate, although this begs the question of the potentially severe effects on biological diversity. But the cost

of protecting the world's coastal areas from rising sea levels would be prohibitive, if possible at all. So it is clear a reduction of the gases is required.

The questions, then, are how to reduce greenhouse gases, how much the task will cost, and who will pay? The North/South issues primarily revolve around carbon dioxide. Not only is it the major greenhouse gas produced by developing countries but tropical forests are an important sink of carbon. Carbon retained in forest biomass means that much less carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere.

But forests are not the only issue. Many developing countries are understandably pushing ahead with their industrialisation. This will require significant increases in fuel energy production from the very low, but rapidly rising, current levels in the developing world.

How will the North treat the South's imperative need for economic development, food and land for growing populations? The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has already sounded an alarm in a recent report: "If developing countries do not adopt climate stabilising policies, then the equilibrium warming commitment in 2050 could increase by about 40 per cent compared to scenarios in which there is global cooperation."

Given current geopolitics, "global cooperation" could well have the effect of locking in place the current economic inequities between the North and the South, regardless of EPA's worthy intentions.

Will it mean, for example, that developing countries will be discouraged from building fossil fuel power plants because developed countries already have too many? Does cooperation require the South to provide a cure for the North's profligate use of resources? Some have suggested that halting tropical deforestation (a source of perhaps 10 per cent

of all greenhouse gases) paired with massive reforestation in the tropics, are needed to reduce levels of the gases. Who will pay for such a colossal project?

There has so far been little analysis of the socio-economic impact of the various stratagems proposed. Where will the land come from? What will happen to farmers who have little alternative to clearing a small plot of forest to grow the crops they need to feed their families? These and other questions need to be addressed in the debate about solutions to global warming.

Desirable options exist for developing countries to help slow global warming — options that make sense even without considering their impact.

For example, 5-10 hectares of forests can be saved for every hectare of land which is farmed by low-cost sustainable methods of agriculture instead of current shifting cultivation.

Agroforestry can increase the carbon held on farmlands while increasing crop yields. Sustained yield management of tropical forests can increase their long-term profitability while saving forests from destruction.

Still, developing countries cannot be asked to make sacrifices to slow global warming until the North demonstrates a rigorous commitment to reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions, managing its forest better, and increasing support to developing countries to lighten the burden of the socially and economically sound but painful measures which will have to be undertaken.

As we learn more about the process of global warming and its effects, and as it becomes apparent that initial action to reduce global warming has been inadequate, then the world community will have to consider more drastic actions such as massive tree plantations. We shall also have to ensure that the costs borne by countries are commensurate with their contribution to the problem — Panos features.

Britain slowly adjusts to multiculturalism

By Maria Balinska

LONDON — Only a few minutes' walk from London's financial district, the bowler-hat and umbrella heart of a white British preserve, is a school where you have to look long and hard for a white face.

Here, at the Mulberry School for Girls in London's East End, the local version of the British school uniform is a tunic and trousers to accommodate the Muslim precept that women's legs be covered. A conversation with the matronly and very British headmistress is punctuated by wafts of Asian music, cumin, and curry. Welcome to multicultural Britain, a reality that is challenging the educational establishment.

Only 50 years ago Britain was a fairly homogeneous, Anglo-Saxon society. But the prosperity of the postwar years and the crumbling of the British Empire brought a flood of Indians, Pakistanis, Africans, and West Indians into the country.

Since the 1970s, strict legislation has stopped further mass immigration, but the non-white population has grown to 2.5 million. Nationwide, non-whites represent only 4 per cent of the population, yet their concentration in urban areas makes the question of educating a multicultural student body urgent.

One of the more valuable participants in this debate, Ray Honeyford, was dismissed from his job as headmaster in Bradford (a Yorkshire city where 25 per cent of the population is of Asian origin) when he refused to give Muslim children special treatment.

"What's important to me," Honeyford said in an interview, "is integration. We want a melting pot, not a tossed salad." The way a school integrates its children, according to Honeyford, is by "letting them know they're British. Which means emphasising the English language, English tolerance, English institutions, and Christianity, which is part of

the British legacy, whether we like it or not." Integration, he stresses, is not assimilation, but ethnic heritage should be left at home. In Honeyford's opinion, a multicultural approach is counterproductive, because it makes children more aware of their differences.

Rejected

This attitude is rejected by the Commission for Racial Equality, a government body set up by the 1967 Race Relations Act. The commission has "gone beyond the tokenism of multiculturalism," in the words of its spokesman Andrew Dorn, to tackle head-on what it sees as the major problem facing "multicultural schools" — racism.

And racism, in the commission's view, doesn't just mean individual prejudices of teachers or children. It also means discrimination that is built into the system itself, or what is called institutional racism.

"No teacher will say this to you," says Valerie Davis, a black teacher now in charge of the Development Programme for Racial Equality in the London borough of Brent, "but blacks are labelled as under-achievers. At inner-city schools a lot of teachers buy comic books for their Friday afternoon math classes — they say the pupils will be tired. But they wouldn't dream of doing that in a middle-class school."

The existence of institutional racism was recognised by the 1985 Swann report, an official inquiry into the reasons for underachievement among West Indian pupils.

Today, most regional bureaucracies governing state schools — the Local Education Authority (LEA) — concur with the report's conclusions. Out of 110 authorities nationwide, about 70 have issued statements committing themselves to "anti-racism".

Letting them know they're British. Which means emphasising the English language, English tolerance, English institutions, and Christianity, which is part of



A scene from the much-acclaimed My Beautiful Laundrette, a film about British Asians.

Oblivious

London's Centre for Multicultural Education, in rural areas, where the population is mostly white, many schools see no need to adopt a multicultural approach. And even in LEAs that have embraced anti-racism, what happens in the classroom varies considerably.

Take Burnage High School. Situated in a mixed-race, working-class area of Manchester, Burnage made national headlines in 1986 when a 13-year-old Asian schoolboy was stabbed to death by a white classmate. What a particularly shocked the teaching profession was that the school was known for its commitment to anti-racism. The independent inquiry into the murder was a condemnation of how not to apply anti-racism. "Moral anti-racism... based on the assumption that all white students are to be seen as racists... led to a polarisation between black and white students." What this dogmatic, anti-white version of anti-racism meant in practice was that the community education department in a school where two-thirds of the student body was white was uniquely directed to Afro-Caribbean and Asian parents and children.

The authors of the report, all well-respected specialists in the race-relations field, made clear that they were not criticising anti-racism per se, only Burnage's interpretation. But the report provided ready ammunition in what the commission has called "the smear campaign" against the whole idea of anti-racist education.

Prejudice

A book like "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is used to look at prejudice; history lessons look at the plight of slaves as well as at the expansion of the British Empire; all religious festivals are acknowledged; and math exercises are not just with John and Jane, but with Hamid and Aruna, too.

Britain is having a hard time adjusting to its multicultural identity. What kind of national culture will eventually emerge is unclear, although you can catch glimpses through the Notting Hill West Indian carnival, the biggest street festival in Europe; the novels of V.S. Naipaul; and films like My Beautiful Laundrette.

Britain's ethnic minorities may not be English, but they are British, and they are here to stay — The Christian Science Monitor.

What befalls the Earth befalls us all

By Jessica Hobby Catto

RECORD HEAT in London, record heat in Colorado. The geography differs, but the topic is the same. What is new in this usually banal discussion is that we now speak of this phenomenon as induced by man, not a deity, and it is therefore our responsibility. Is it possible that a global climate crisis can alter the way we do business with one another or the way countries interact? History and tradition dictate defended units and borders. Man — singly and collectively — has clawed and killed for his piece of the planet. Now, for the first time in memory, at the Paris summit, the major military and economic forces of the world plead for countries to recognise that air drifts across those boundaries, with scarcely a glance down to see if the breezes are spreading radiation or CFCs over the United Kingdom, Spain, the Soviet Union, or the Sudan.

The heat goes on and the world, now joined by its leaders, ponders. Are the predictions of the scientists that by 2040 the Earth's temperature will rise two to five degrees correct? Do we have time to effect any reversal? What specific steps do we take? And if we do not respond on a global level, does it do much good for one or two countries to act alone? Are we finally in a kind of global lifeboat instead of separate destroyers? These are questions that echo through our minds. The conditions are here for mankind to put down the spears and missiles and watch the horizon at the approach of an almost invisible enemy — one that cannot be defeated with familiar weapons.

The rate of change in atmospheric composition is now 10 to 40 times faster than natural change in the past, measured by gas content in polar ice. The natural rate causes a two degrees Celsius change over 1,000 years. The present rate is causing two to eight degrees change every hundred, according to Steven Schneider of the U.S. National Centre for Atmospheric Research. That there is a "better than even chance for unprecedented change" seems accepted. It is around the nature, extent and effects of change that the debate revolves. Heavily populated coastal zones would be affected by erosion, salinity, and loss of port facilities. In the mid-latitudes, forests would suffer, and in temperate zones, crops

would fail. The tropics would register the smallest change, although ironically the devastation of the tropical rain forests in the Amazon greatly hastens on onslaught of global warming. Nearer the poles, changes would be striking — from massive transportation to agricultural settlement to military considerations — as ice caps melt.

At the Aspen Institute in Colorado, the concept of a "global commons" was advanced in a series of seminars. Four environments have been recognised as having a common heritage for man: the oceans, outer space, weather and climate, Antarctica. Now a fifth candidate appears — information. Information exchange is crucial as it becomes apparent that this new class of global problems can be altered only by changes in human behaviour. In order to escape the "heat trap" that our fuels have concocted for us, we must make some changes. Participation must be available to all. "My dream," says Harlan Cleveland, professor emeritus at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, "is a non-governmental policy analysis in every town, connected by a computer network. With the marriage of computers and telecommunications, the boundaries of the nation state and the difference between public and private are blurred."

On the other hand, man needs to be alert and flexible in his interpretation of computer data. In the late 1970s, satellite pictures reported a 50 per cent depletion of the ozone layer in Antarctica. Computers in England and the United States were programmed to reject those findings because the scientific model for ozone depletion by CFCs was one of uniform, worldwide depletion. Because of computer inability to cope with disproportionate projections, scientists began manual evaluation in 1986 and reached a different conclusion. Since the very nature of nature is aberrant and hardly likely to fit a model computer programme, "we can expect other nasty surprises," according to Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, senior atmospheric physicist for the Environmental Defence Fund.

As I look out across the grassy meadows to the snow-crowned peaks of the Elk Mountain range, I can hardly believe that man could be so careless as to foul his own magical planet, but the evidence is otherwise. The hope of world awareness, however, is a

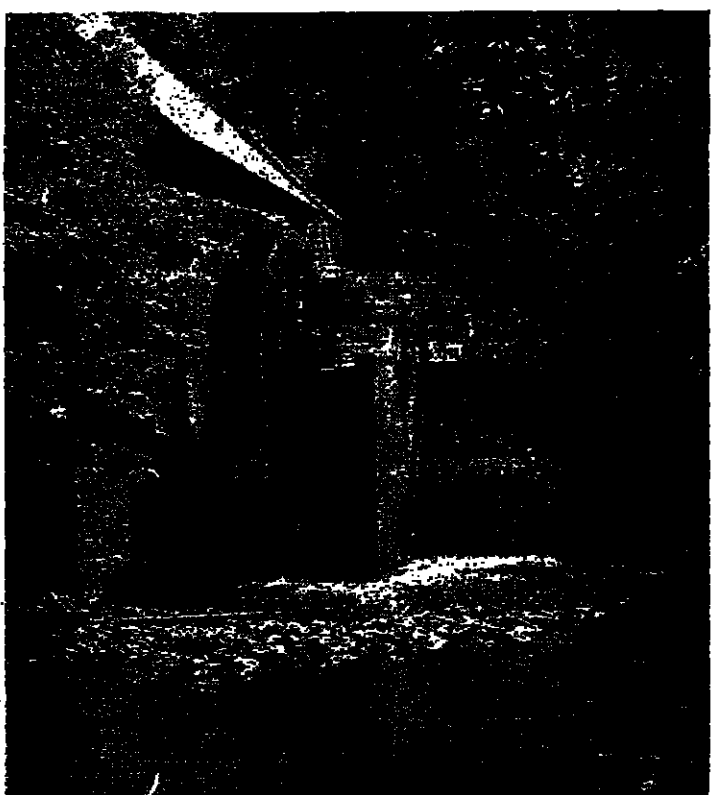
glimmer in some of our eyes. To shore up that hope Thomas Lovejoy of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington offers some practical remedies: global forest management and co-operation on global warming; more protected ecosystems and species; population control; transferring resources to cope with North/South inequities; speeded up technology transfers of environmental information; and a reduction of a nation's debt burden in return for greater environmental protection.

Chief Seattle of the Squamish Indian tribe said in 1851: "Teach your children what we have taught our children: that the

earth is their mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves. The earth does not belong to man, man belongs to the earth. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. The end of living and the beginning of survival."

The world is an integral whole; its sum is larger than its parts, and its inhabitants have been put on notice.

Jessica Hobby Catto is a trustee of the Environmental Defence Fund. The article is reprinted from the Guardian.



Nostalgia for the past

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

1) BODY ROCK

Show times 3:30, 8:15 p.m.

2) NO MAN'S LAND

Show times 6:45, 8:45, 10:45 p.m.

Cinema **ALFORD** Tel: 675571

NICO

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 pm

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

1) REVENGE OF NARDS "PART II"

3:30, 10:35 p.m.

2) AL MAWLED (Arabic)

12:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.



Ghali urges attention to Third World

CAIRO (AP) — A senior Egyptian official Monday appealed to the Western World to help reduce Africa's heavy debt burden and said unless more attention was paid to this problem, the existence of some countries would be threatened.

Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, also said African states should cooperate among themselves before expecting help from the Western World. The minister made the appeal while outlining his new duties resulting from the election of President Hosni Mubarak as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) two weeks ago. "As president of the OAU,

Mubarak has been mandated to seek a new strategy toward a North-South dialogue," he said referring to talks and cooperation between the industrialised countries and the impoverished African and South American states. "What is important is to create a political will among the rich of the North to pay attention to the problems of the South. "When you are wealthy and rich you have no time to take care

of the underdogs." Africa's foreign debts amount to \$230 billion, and the continent has some of the poorest nations in the world, many of them beset by civil wars or natural disasters such as droughts and floods.

He said that while Egypt welcomed the rapprochement between the United States and the Soviet Union and Western and Eastern Europe, it was concerned those countries might ignore the problems of the developing states.

"Today the United States and Europe are more interested by East-West rapprochement and we are concerned that the con-

sequence would be marginalisation of the Third World. "The real problem is not so much of co-existence between South and North, but of existence of some countries in the (Third) World."

Ghali also criticised African nations for failing to achieve unity and cooperation, but warned that Europe might soon have at its doorstep "in North Africa, destabilisation, insecurity due to poverty."

In his inaugural speech at the OAU summit on July 24, Mubarak pledged to work toward easing the debt problem and the disputes between some states. He

mentioned no specific conflicts.

Ghali said OAU member states and governments had mandated Mubarak to help solve regional disputes including those between Mauritania and Senegal, Chad and Libya, and Morocco and the Polisario Front over the Western Sahara.

He said Mubarak, who took over the OAU chairmanship from President Mousa Traore of Mali, is also assigned to "help ensure free elections" in Namibia next November.

Ghali is considered one of Egypt's best specialists on African affairs.



Boutros Ghali

Arab Bank Corporation to raise capital to \$1b

NICOSIA (R) — The Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), Bahrain's largest offshore bank, said it was intending to raise its capital by \$250 million to \$1 billion.

The Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency quoted ABC President Abdul Aziz Al Sabah as saying the bank's board of directors approved the step at their last meeting in London.

Saudi said the bank would issue new shares for shareholders after member states ratified the proposed move. "The increase in the capital will be used to finance the setting up of a new branch in a European capital," Saudi said.

The Bahrain-based bank is

owned one third each by Kuwait, Libya and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

The group said last week its pre-tax profits for the first half of 1989 rose to \$72 million from \$68 million in the same period of last year. Its assets jumped to \$19 billion in June against \$17 billion the year before.

Saudi said completion of the move might take nine months and that the new shares will be listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and one of the Gulf bourses.

Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain have stock exchanges. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are planning to open exchanges.

Japan reports 32 months of economic growth

TOKYO (AP) — Expansion of the domestic economy is driving one of Japan's longest periods of continued economic growth, the government reported Tuesday. The Economic Planning Agency, summarising trends in the fiscal year ending in March 1989, said Japan has achieved 32 months of consecutive economic growth through July. This makes the current growth period the country's third longest, after a 42-month period starting in 1958 and a 57-month boom beginning in 1965.

The report said that the boom was driven by the economic growth, stimulated by high personal consumption, strong private investment and stable prices.

It also predicted that such growth will continue.

Japan's real gross national product (GNP), a measure of the total goods and services produced by a nation, rose by 5.1 per cent in 1988, following 5.2 per cent growth in 1987, the EPA said.

Spurred by the high level of the yen, which makes exports expensive and imports cheap, domestic demand contributed 6.8 percentage points to the GNP growth

rate, while relatively weak external demand subtracted 1.7 percentage points.

Inflation was well under control, with the consumer price index rising 0.8 per cent for the year and the wholesale price index declining 0.7 per cent, the report said.

Japan's current account surplus, a major source of friction with other countries, declined from 3.3 per cent of nominal GNP in 1987 to 2.7 per cent in 1988, the report said.

Exports increased 6.0 per cent in fiscal 1988 while imports increased 13.7 per cent.

Japan has achieved some but not all of the goals of the Maekawa Report, said Tsutomu Tanaka, director general of the research bureau of the EPA.

The Maekawa Report, presented to former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1986, advocated far-reaching structural readjustment of the economy.

It focused on shifting to domestic demand-led growth in order to create a more balanced economy and reduce Japan's huge current account surplus. Tanaka noted that market

forces, particularly the rise of the yen, have driven the economy toward many of the goals outlined in the report, while institutional reform such as rationalisation of the distribution system and business practices have moved more slowly.

The current boom has been marked by healthy expansion of increasingly sophisticated plant and equipment investment, the report said. Private plant investment increased 17.9 per cent over the previous year, the highest rate of growth in twenty years, while corporate profits grew strongly.

Investment figures reveal that although the high cost of the yen makes export from Japan difficult and has encouraged overseas investment by manufacturers, businesses are still investing in manufacturing capacity at home.

"We find that the firms which invest abroad also invest in Japan," Tanaka said.

Another feature of the current boom has been a change in people's attitudes, he said. They spend more, save less, and seem more interested in leisure activities.

"More Japanese travel overseas and want more sophisticated goods," he said.

But paradoxically, the average number of working hours per year has actually increased since 1987 because the labour shortage caused by the booming economy has created a greater demand for overtime work.

The agency reported that the average number of scheduled work hours declined by 0.3 per cent in 1988, but the time spent working overtime increased by 8.1 per cent.

Soaring values of stocks and land are widening an assets gap among the predominantly middle-class Japanese. The report noted that the value of the real estate and stock assets had increased 15.5 times more than GNP.

"Japan has been known for a fair distribution of income, but we're starting to see differentials," he said.

The paper recommended that Japan make further efforts to open its markets to promote its domestic-led expansion. It also advocated cautious fiscal and monetary policies to prevent inflation.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

July customs fees amount to JD 19,665

AMMAN (Petra) — Revenues to the treasury from customs fees in the past month amounted to JD 19,665, registering an increase of JD 1,307 million over the figures of the same month of last year, according to a statistical bulletin released Tuesday. The bulletin by the Customs Department said that total revenues from customs in the past seven months was JD 92,813,671, less from the first seven months of 1988 by JD 4,256,586.

Minister predicts oil price range

KUWAIT (AP) — Oil prices are expected to range between \$15 and \$18 until the end of the year, Kuwait's oil minister, Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah said in a newspaper interview published Tuesday. Sheikh Ali also told the newspaper Al Rai Al Aam that Kuwait is planning a "vast petrochemical complex" aimed at increasing exports of oil products but gave no details of the project. "Oil prices are expected to range between \$15 and \$18 for the remaining part of the year," he said, adding that if they fluctuate more broadly "an emergency OPEC conference should be held to consider the situation." But he said the organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) "should leave prices to move within a margin to reflect the performance of the market forces," he said. Sheikh Ali arrived in Abu Dhabi Monday for talks with his United Arab Emirates counterpart, Mansour bin Zayed, on market developments and coordination among the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council's oil producers. The talks are to prepare for a September meeting of the 13-member cartel's market monitoring committee. Sheikh Ali visited Saudi Arabia last week for similar talks with Oil Minister Hisham Nazer. He also conferred in Doha on the price issue with the Qatari oil minister, Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani.

'China's oilfields hit by theft'

HONG KONG (R) — China's oil production is being seriously hit by theft of vital equipment that has caused fires, blowouts and large-scale electricity cuts in major fields, the China News Service (CNS) said Tuesday. The country's six major oilfields suffered material losses worth over \$160 million in 1988, the semi-official news agency said. CNS, monitored here, said there were a total of 2,100 cases of stealing, ransacking and sabotage reported in Daqing, Shengli, Zhongyuan, Huabei, Daigang and Henan oilfields last year. Another \$50 cases were reported in the first quarter of this year and the number was increasing, the report said. It said thieves were organising themselves into groups to coordinate the theft, transportation and melting down of metal equipment such as piping. Such theft is increasing as robbery becomes a major problem in China. Reports about communication lines being stolen for the copper content, coal trucks being robbed on highways and even trains being ransacked have appeared in the Chinese press in recent years.

Japan aid to poor countries rises sharply

TOKYO (R) — Japanese aid to poor nations rose sharply in the second quarter this year, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. Japan provided grants totalling 68.03 billion yen (\$489 million) to 40 developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the April-June quarter, up from 44.74 billion (\$321 million) to 43 nations a year earlier. The grants are to boost education, agriculture and medical facilities, the officials said. The biggest donation, over two billion yen (\$14.4 million), was for polio vaccine production in Indonesia. Japan, which was formerly criticised by other rich countries for not transferring enough of its wealth to poor nations, has recently substantially increased its aid to the Third World.

S. Korea orders firing of 2,100 teachers

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's Education Ministry has threatened to dismiss 2,173 teachers for refusing to quit a national union banned by the government, a ministry spokesman said Monday. He said 560 union organisers had already been dismissed and another 2,173 would lose their jobs unless they renounced union membership within a week. The defiant teachers, who briefly went on hunger strike last month protesting at laws blocking them from setting up unions, say they want better working conditions and independence from government control. The ministry, accusing the teachers of trying to imbue students with "leftist revolutionary ideologies", rejected calls for a compromise. More than 9,800 other teachers originally joined the union but later quit after the ministry threatened to sack them.

Iran covers cost of repairing refinery

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has recovered more than half the cost of repairing the war-damaged Abadan Refinery with exports in only four months, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a refinery official as saying Abadan had exported fuel oil worth \$80 million since it reopened on April 1. The refinery resumed operations with an initial output of 130,000 barrels of by-products per day. The cost of repair has been estimated at \$120 million, IRNA said. It said output at the plant was 600,000 barrels per day before the start of the Iran-Iraq war in September 1980. The daily Arab newspaper quoted a refinery official as saying: "With the start of the second phase in the near future, refining capacity will be increased to 380,000 barrels per day." He said 6,000 people were working at the refinery, one third of the number before the Gulf war, but more would be hired once production increased.

Mozambique cannot repay debt

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique, struggling to rebuild a war-shattered economy, says it cannot pay back its foreign debt of \$4 billion and wants more Western creditors to write off chunks of it or agree to easier payment terms. "We have been trying to convince creditor nations that Mozambique cannot pay the debt," Bank of Mozambique Governor Enes Comiche told Reuters in an interview. Mozambique's foreign debt totalled \$4.2 billion at the end of 1988. The Paris Club of Western creditor governments agreed in June 1987 to reschedule part of the debt. Mozambique has since made bilateral agreements with seven Paris Club nations to write off debt or grant concessionary interest rates, Comiche said. Mozambique says it cannot pay commercial rates and is asking creditors to accept interest at around two per cent. Comiche said more help was needed to lighten the debt to allow the government to concentrate on developing the economy.

Major arms at stake in U.S. Congress showdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers are predicting a contentious session when they try to craft defence legislation from a U.S. House of Representatives bill and a Senate blueprint that largely endorses President George Bush's priorities.

"I think it will be a more difficult conference than we've had in some time," Sen. Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said shortly after the chamber approved a military package that left Bush's proposals on "Star Wars," mobile missiles and the B-2 bomber relatively intact.

"Star Wars" is the space-based missile defence system formally known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

The Senate action came less than one week after the house gutted or severely curtailed many of the president's strategic pro-

grammes, including a last-minute strike killing the single-warhead Midgetman missile.

The most contentious issue is the compromise worked out earlier this year between the White House and congressional leaders on proceeding with two nuclear missiles — the multiple-warhead MX and Midgetman.

The House cut \$502 million from the \$1.1 billion administration request for the MX rail-garrison system and eliminated all \$100 million from the Midgetman as angry Republicans joined forces with Liberal Democrats to kill the small ICBM programme.

The Senate endorsed Bush's request for both programmes with Nunn stressing that the United States needs the two missiles for its bargaining power in strategic arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union.

But Rep. William Dickinson of Alabama, the ranking Republi-

can on the House Armed Services Committee who was part of the compromise worked out with the White House, indicated that he won't accept that plan.

Failure to revive the Midgetman may be acceptable to Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, who originally opposed the two-missile plan but later accepted Bush's decision.

In other action, the House slashed \$1.8 billion from Bush's request of \$4.9 billion for the "Star Wars" anti-missile shield, and authorised using the money for conventional programmes, military drug interdiction and cleanup of nuclear waste sites.

The Senate trimmed \$400 million from the administration's proposal for "Star Wars."

After the House and Senate conference, the amount of money for "Star Wars" in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 will be "around \$3.5 billion," according to Dick-

inson. That "Star Wars" amount will be less than the \$4 billion spent on the programme in fiscal 1989 and fiscal 1988 and probably closer to the \$3.7 billion level in fiscal 1987.

Another House target was the B-2 Stealth bomber, the radar-evading plane that at \$530 million a copy has given many lawmakers sticker shock. The House limited production of the Bat-winged aircraft to two in fiscal 1990 and money for components of two planes in fiscal 1991 as well as requiring the Defence Department to come up with a programme cheaper than \$70 billion for the planned 132 planes.

The Senate made a modest cut of \$300 million in the \$4.7 billion Bush proposed for the B-2 but agreed to the Defence Department's plans for three planes in fiscal 1990 and money for parts of five in fiscal 1991.

Brady praises Mexico's economic programme

MEXICO CITY (AP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady has said that Mexico's new economic programme and a recently negotiated debt plan may have been so successful that a \$2-billion U.S. "bridge loan" may be "less necessary."

"I take my hat off to the Salinas administration," Brady said of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's economic policies. Brady, at a news conference in Mexico City, also said the Mexican government has shown greater interest in fighting drug trafficking under Salinas.

Brady joined U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and other U.S. cabinet members in talks

Monday with Mexican officials. Like Baker, he expressed optimism that U.S.-Mexican relations were on solid footing after a long period of cross-border friction. The meeting was held under the auspices of the U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission, which was established eight years ago as a forum for regular contacts between the two countries.

At the news conference, Brady said he thought the plan for handling Mexico's debt would succeed in its major goal of giving Mexico \$3 billion a year for capital investment.

Last month, Mexico and negotiators for a consortium of commercial banks jointly called on banks to accept one of three options — reducing the principal on loans to Mexico, reducing the

interest, or making new loans. Mexico has a \$54-billion foreign debt.

Brady said a reduction in domestic interest rates brought about by the debt plan will by itself save the Mexican government another \$10 billion a year and noted that the plan had already brought a heavy influx of capital from abroad.

He said the United States was prepared to provide a \$2-billion short-term bridge loan to help Mexico while the debt plan was finalised, but said "the capital

flow may make it less necessary." He said discussions have been held on debt reduction with the Philippines, Costa Rica, Venezuela and Morocco, but that two of the largest debtors, Argentina and Brazil, have not initiated the kind of economic programme that would qualify them for an agreement.

The drug and economic issues were among many that Baker and the 40 other members of the U.S. delegation were taking up during their daylong discussions with Mexican officials.

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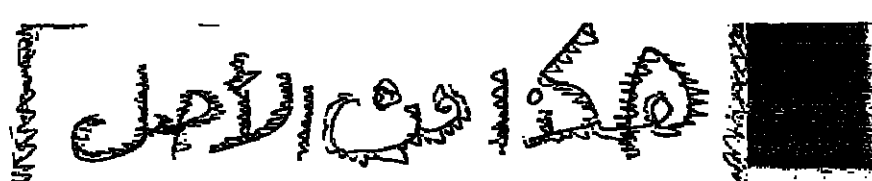
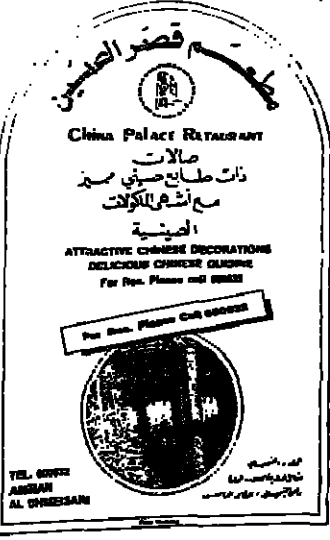
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Hillsborough sparks multi-million plan

LONDON (R) — Top English soccer clubs are to be given four million pounds sterling (\$6.5 million) towards the installation of more seats in terraces at their grounds following the Hillsborough tragedy when 95 fans were crushed to death.

A trust funded by football pools companies said Monday the money would be given to all first division clubs and others with an average attendance of more than 10,000.

Tom Wharton, chairman of the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, said that following the Hillsborough disaster clubs had been under pressure to convert standing room on terraces into seating.

"While we would not necessarily advocate all-seater stadia, we felt that clubs should be given every assistance to improve existing facilities," Wharton said.

It was estimated that the cost of conversions at the first division clubs and 14 others that qualified would be around eight million pounds (\$13 million).

"The trust has therefore provided half the figure needed and clubs will be able to apply for grants of up to 50 per cent of the expenditure involved," Wharton said.

"We anticipate that this initiative will be only the first stage in the trust's efforts to assist league clubs with the introduction of more seating and we hope to be able to help other clubs in the near future."

Viola: don't change your forte

NEW YORK (AP) — After the New York Mets completed a three-game sweep of Montreal, Frank Viola stood at his locker looking as if he just pitched both ends of a doubleheader.

Viola wasn't tired from throwing, he was just weary from watching.

The newest Met watched his baseball team battle Montreal for 14 innings Sunday before Kevin McReynolds gave New York a 2-1 victory with a home run.

"I've seen more bunting in the last five days than I saw in eight seasons with the Twins," Viola said.

Welcome to the National League, Frank.

Viola saw four sacrifice bunts Sunday and several more attempts that didn't quite work.

He also saw 10 pitchers in the game and seven different names listed as the Mets' leadoff batter. For the Expos, the third slot was rather crowded, featuring eight names.

"I love it," Viola said. "This was the brand of baseball I was brought up on."

Viola grew up on Long Island, only a few miles from Shea Stadium, and his father took him to about 10 Mets games a year.

A CY Young award winner for the Minnesota Twins last year with a 24-7 record, Viola is now learning a new league after being acquired by the Mets last week.

"I've seen some of the guys in spring training, and a few played in the American League," Viola said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

OLYMPIAKOS, AEK BEAT TURKISH TEAMS: Olympiakos Piraeus beat Fenerbahce of Istanbul 3-2 (1-0) and AEK of Athens scraped a 1-0 (1-0) win over Galatasaray, also of Istanbul, in two exhibition matches played in Athens Monday.

Olympiakos' Hungarian star striker Lajos Detari opened the score in the 23rd minute and followed on after half-time with a goal in the 63rd minute.

Fenerbahce's Buyuk Senol scored in the 70th minute but Olympiakos was quick to reply, with Sakis Moustakidis slamming home the game's most spectacular goal three minutes later (AP)

SLOW START TO FASTNET RACE: A lack of wind left the nearly 280 yachts in the Fastnet race floundering Monday in the waters off the southwestern coast of England. It was one of the slowest starts in the fastest race between England and Ireland, and many of the boats had to drop anchor overnight to avoid being carried in the wrong direction by tides. They had covered only 150 miles (241 kilometres) in 24 hours. The Fastnet race is the most prestigious portion of the Admiral's Cup regatta, and the 40 ships remaining in the Regatta are participating in the Fastnet event. (AP)

MCNEIL DOWNED BY COLLEGE GIRL: Eleventh-seeded Lori McNeil lost to wild-card entry Tami Whitlinger in straight sets Monday night, at Manhattan Beach becoming the first seeded player to fall in first round of the \$300,000 Virginia Slims of Los Angeles. Whitlinger downed McNeil 7-6 (9-7), 6-1, capitalizing on McNeil's errors in the tiebreaker. In the second set, McNeil won only one game on her serve, and Whitlinger won the last five games. "The key to the match was the tiebreaker," said Whitlinger, who turned pro this summer after attending Stanford, where she was the top-ranked collegiate woman for most of the season. "We were going back and forth in the first set and I was trying to get as many balls as I could." (AP)

BRAZILIANS SCORN CHILE VICTORY: The sporting press in Rio de Janeiro said Monday Brazil was the big winner in Chile's 3-1 victory over Venezuela in a World Cup eliminatory soccer game Sunday in Caracas. The Chilean team was unimpressive and failed to match Brazil's performance against a weak Venezuelan team, sportswriters said.

Swimmers told to sink

DOVER, England (AP) — At the height of the channel swimming season, coast guards say swimmers are a danger to the seaway and ships should sail over them rather than change course if this means risking collision with other vessels.

"If avoiding a swimmer hazards the ship, crew, passengers and cargo... there is only one thing a captain can do and that's go over him," the senior coast guard watch officer at Dover, Peter Legg, was quoted as saying in an interview in the Times of London.

"We devote ourselves to saving lives so it is difficult for us to say this. But while we might lose one life we could save many more," Legg was further quoted Tuesday.

"Frankly, we don't want them (Channel swimmers)."

About 30 swimmers were reported waiting for optimum tide and weather conditions before setting out from the south coast port of Dover to try to swim across the English Channel to France.

The channel is constantly busy with big oil tankers and other ships while ferries sail frequently between Britain and continental Europe.

In a straight line the Channel is

21 miles (33 kilometres) wide. But the action of tides, winds and currents generally increases the distance swimmers must cover to about 40 miles (64 kilometres).

Ray Scott, chairman of the Dover-based Channel Swimming Association, said: "This is dramatizing the thing to a dreadful extent. We wouldn't like to think we are a danger to anyone."

"In 113 years of swimming the Channel there have been two deaths. More than 3,900 people have attempted it," Scott said.

Mecir thinks of quitting

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir has refused to play in the Czechoslovak Grand Prix tennis tournament starting Monday due to back problems and may be thinking of retiring from tennis, Czechoslovak dailies reported Tuesday.

"Milos told me he eventually decided not to play in Prague," Jan Kodes, director of the tournament, was quoted as telling the Communist Party daily Rude Pravo.

"He said the warm weather is good for his back... but he is still far from being OK," Kodes added.

"He (Mecir) is stuck deeply in his internal problems and right now almost thinking about whether it would not be better to give up tennis altogether," Czechoslovak Davis Cup coach Frantisek Pala was quoted as saying by Svobodne Slovo daily Saturday.

"His baseline game is very poor now, and he is literally afraid to use his miraculous backhand... maybe out of a subconscious fear of renewing his back injury," Pala said in the interview.

Mecir, 25, won the Seoul Olympic tennis tournament last year and reached the Australian Open finals this year, quickly lost his top 10 ranking and dropped to no. 19 last week after a series of

first-round losses and apparent health problems.

The Czechoslovak tennis star is also known to have erratic performances in Prague, which earned him a reputation of taking the home events too lightly.

"If he came to play here with the form he is in, he would

provoke the people even more," Pala said.

"He wants to return to the tennis courts in a series of tournaments in the U.S.," Kodes said without specifying whether Mecir is ready to play the U.S. Open in August this year.



Sometimes a genius, sometimes a hacker, "the Big Cat", as he is known on the circuit because of his lithe agility, has always suffered from highly erratic form.

NFL faces growing pains

By Michael Goldfarb

Even as American football makes ambitious plans to expand worldwide, the sport's officials are asking themselves whether big really is beautiful.

Over the past 30 years the National Football League has grown from 14 to 28 teams. It is a billion-dollar business. It has absorbed one rival league and driven two others out of existence. The value of the teams has risen spectacularly. This year the most of this growth was accomplished under the aegis of the recently retired NFL commissioner, Pete Rozelle. He leaves the NFL perched at a delicate point. It is about to negotiate a new television contract — its life-blood. It is under Congressional pressure to add more teams in the U.S. And it is throwing its prestige into global expansion with the World League of American Football.

The question is how much further the NFL can grow and whether the team owners — in effect the league — can agree how to do it. The man to answer is Art Modell, the owner of the Cleveland Browns, who play the Philadelphia Eagles in tomorrow's American Bowl at Wembley. He has brought a group of 283 for the game — players, wives, secretaries, marketing

staff and computer operators. "The sport's growth is unmitigated," he says. "We haven't even scratched the surface. There are 320 million people in the common market alone. With the ease of TV we can reach them."

He knows better than most the link between TV and football. A producer and ad man in New York in the Fifties, he saw football's on-air potential and paid a then unheard of \$3.9 million for the Browns.

Over the years TV has made the game secure. The NFL is in the last year of a three-year contract with all three U.S. networks that will have paid the league's owners \$2.1 billion by the time it ends in January. Negotiations for a new contract promise to be difficult if recent history is anything to go by.

There is a deepening chasm between the old gridiron owners, who recall when gridiron was a sport first, and the new owners, who have been paying up to \$100 million for a team.

"The people paying \$90 or \$100 million have different needs than, say, the Mara family who bought the New York Giants for \$2,500 in 1925," says Modell. "They are heavily leveraged. They've got to cover their interest load."

Is any sport franchise worth \$120 million? Not from a business point of view, he says. "Nobody

can justify that by annual yield," he says. "There's no way a team can earn \$12 million annually after taxes — which is 10 per cent return on your investment."

NFL has taken to heart medical evidence about the physical and mental problems caused by men-

tal problems caused by steroid use. Players are now banned from using steroids and will be tested this pre-season. Any player shown to be still using them will be suspended for one pre-season game and three regular games.

— (The Guardian)

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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DISCOVER THE LIE OF THE CARDS

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 3
♥ 7
♦ K 5 4 2
♣ Q 8 2

EAST
♠ 9 5
♥ Q J 10 8 6 2
♦ K 8 5 4
♣ 10 7 3

SOUTH
♠ 7 4
♥ A Q J 10 9 2
♦ Void
♣ K J 10 6 4

The bidding:
East 2♠ South 3♥ North 3NT
East 4♥ South 4♥ Pass 5♥
Pass 6♥ Pass 6♥
Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Some 30 years ago the noted British author, Terence Reese, wrote about a novel method of finding out about the lie of the cards. By locating a specific card in one hand, you can often place another key card. He named this phenomenon "discovery" plays. To show what we mean, consider this hand from a recent team match.

East-West were using weak two-

bids. Thus, East's two-spade opening showed a hand worth less than an opening bid and containing a good six-card spade suit. The rest of the auction was natural, and South ended up declaring a fair club slam.

West was reasonably sure dummy was going to be short in hearts, so he led ace and another trump to cut down on the table's ruffing power. Since he could now ruff only two hearts and a 3-3 heart break was against the odds, declarer felt he needed a successful heart finesse if he was going to make his contract. To help him to decide whether to take a normal finesse against East or a ruffing finesse against West, declarer thought it would be good idea to locate the ace of diamonds. He won the second trump in dummy and led the king of diamonds. East covered with the ace, declarer ruffed and the hand was now an open book.

Since East probably held the queen and jack of spades and had now shown up with the ace of diamonds, he was unlikely to have the king of hearts as well. So declarer drew the last trump, cashed the ace of hearts and ran the queen of hearts through West. Whether or not West covered, the slam was home.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierach, Astrologer/Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be prepared for needs to change without forewarning. Although feelings run deep, mental processes are able to analyze situations and form structured responses with solutions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): An exchange of ideas is beneficial. You treasure your closeness to family and friends. A loving attitude will bring results.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 20): Stay clear of controversial issues. Direct your enthusiasm into playful activities. Relax with someone with whom you are comfortable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): If you are having difficulty loving someone just as they are, take a second look at the relationship. It may be time to call a truce.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Be careful! You may need a vacation or change of pace. Cash flow resumes or increases. Avoid clandestine or secret activities.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21): If you feel unbalanced, it may be time for a style makeover. Buy what you can afford and make yourself socially comfortable.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): You have freedom today to be yourself and develop good communications with others. Break from the status quo and be original.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Someone may assume a position of authority and attempt to manipulate a situation. Money picture brightens. Start a diary today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Intuition is at a high point! Today is perfect for developing creative ideas. Tactfully approach someone with immature attitudes.

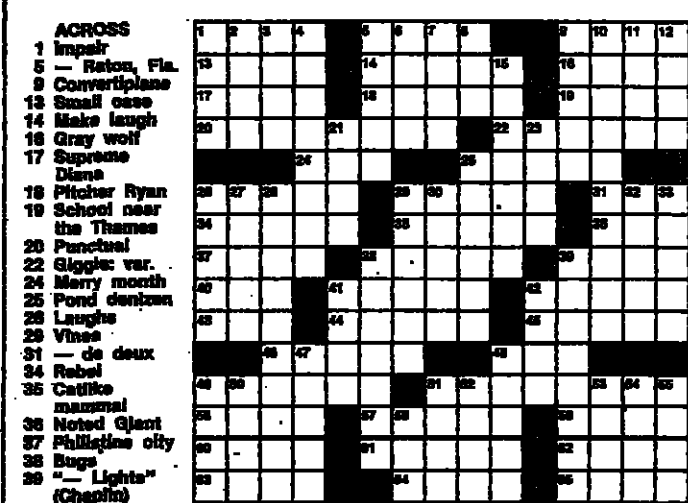
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Look your best and be prepared for a surprise meeting, possibly romantic. A wish can be fulfilled. Shop for a special gift.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Keep your composure if a companion gets offended. Go easy with love and its related spending. Get agreements in writing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): A mutual attraction can be brought together. Follow the rules at work and stay busy. Evening hours have humorous overtones.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Family members may be expecting more than you can give. Let everyone know where you are coming from and why!

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates



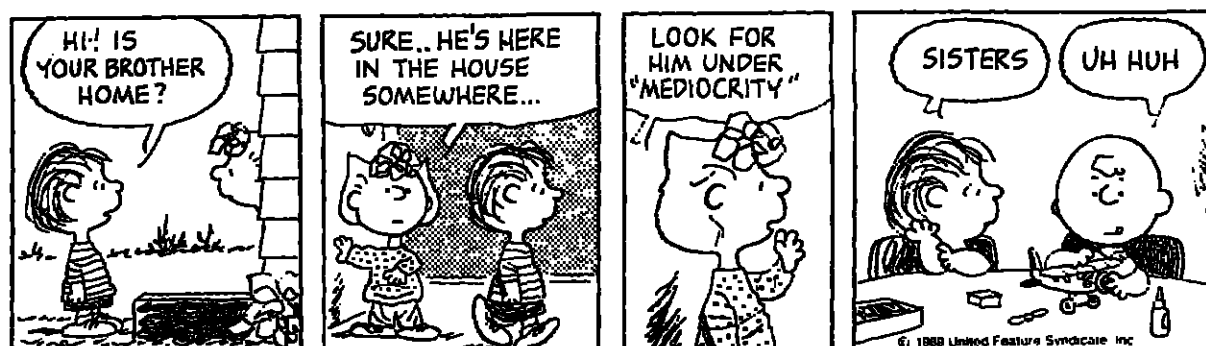
ACROSS

1 Impair
5 Nation, Fla.
9 Conventione
12 Seal case
14 Make laugh
16 Gray wolf
17 Suppose
18 Pitcher Ryan
19 School near the Thames
20 Pigeon
22 Giggle var.
24 Merry month
26 Pond denizen
28 Laugh
29 Vase
31 — de deux
34 Rabat
36 Celtic mammal
37 Noted giant
38 Puffinlike city
39 Rugs
40 "Lights" (Chaplin)
42 Darned
43 Floor walker

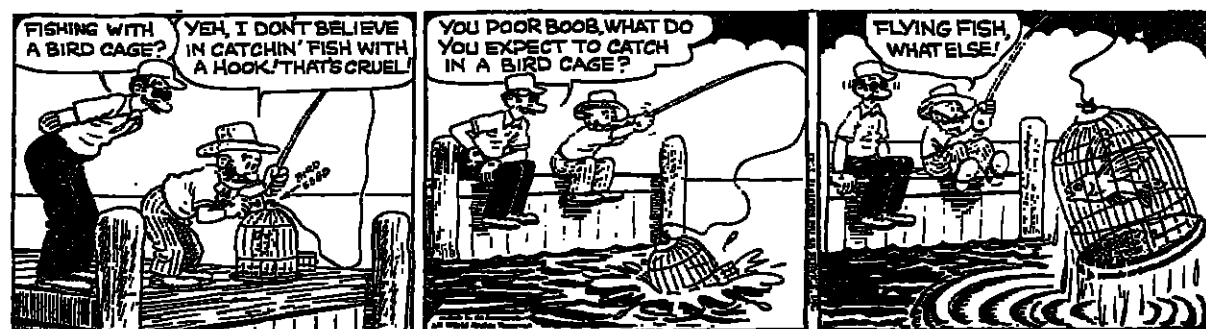
DOWN

1 Protagonist
2 Lie — of
3 Briefs
4 Sign of
5 Jumble
6 Toss back and forth
7 Exclusive group
8 Smart — whip
9 Gloomy
10 Precise
11 Woodwind
12 Wolf
13 Male dialect
15 NY river
16 Defect
18 — the
20 Horrible
21 Macaw
22 Gallary
23 Glacial
24 Shave
25 Rose oil
26 Mode
28 Assortment
29 Expect
41 Serve the tea
42 Snatched
47 Hunt
48 Sediment
49 Once more
50 Shore bird
51 Grinace
52 Sarcoph or Baxter
53 Davenport's place
54 Barring
55 "Born Free" Jones
56 Name for Dickens

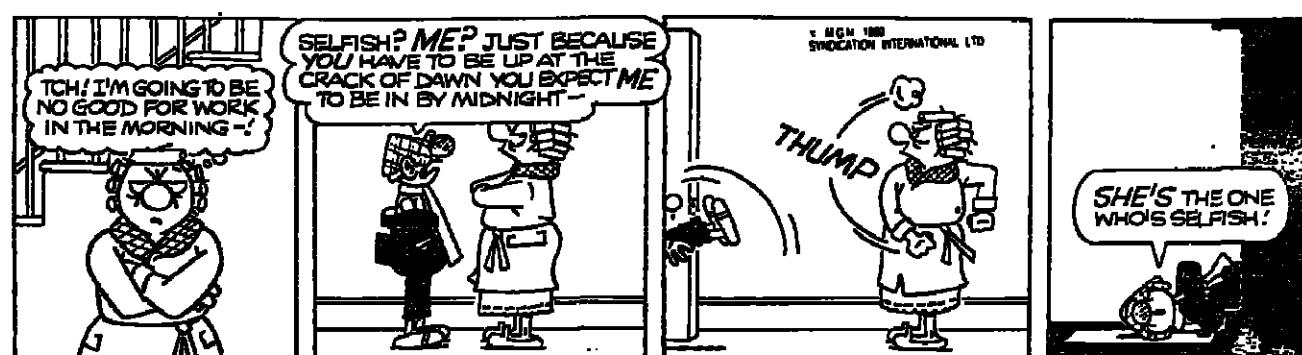
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





Toshiki Kaifu (centre), who was elected Tuesday as president of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), holds a pre-election news conference with two have-been contenders for the party job.

former Health and Welfare Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and former Transport Minister Shintaro Ishihara.

Former minister elected LDP president

Kaifu heads for premiership

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) elected Toshiki Kaifu as its leader Tuesday, making him the certain choice to succeed Souseike Uno as the next prime minister.

"I want to carry out reforms and pass reform legislation based on our deep self-reflection. We must carry out political reforms and shed our old skin," Kaifu declared after his selection by the scandal-ridden party.

Kaifu was expected to be elected prime minister Wednesday by the Lower House of Parliament, which is dominated by Liberal Democrats. The 58-year-old former education minister is the LDP's third leader in just over two months.

"This is a crucial time for our party, so it will be a great responsibility," Kaifu told reporters at a news conference following Tuesday's party ballot.

Kaifu faces the severe challenge of restoring public trust in the LDP following widespread disaffection over the so-called Recruit influence peddling scandal and controversy surrounding Uno.

Seventeen people were arrested in bribery and other charges in the Recruit scandal, which involved sales of large numbers of unlisted shares in the

real estate subsidiary of the Recruit company publishing conglomerate.

Three cabinet ministers also resigned due to Recruit links, but were neither arrested nor charged. But former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita resigned to take responsibility for the scandal.

Takeshita's successor, Uno, was plagued by reports that he kept paid mistresses, and announced his resignation July 24 to take responsibility for the LDP's loss in upper-house elections.

Tuesday was the first time in 17 years that the Liberal Democrats decided to elect their president through a vote of LDP lawmakers and 47 delegates from regional party organizations.

Kaifu, a two-time former education minister, received 279 votes against 120 for Yoshiro Hayashi, former health and welfare minister, and 48 for Shintaro Ishihara, novelist and former transportation minister. Four of the 451 votes were invalid.

Backroom deals

Despite the vote, Kaifu's candidacy emerged from backroom deals by party faction leaders who reportedly hoped to guarantee their own future turn at the prime ministry by selecting a relatively powerless nominee.

The deals, which went against calls for greater democracy and openness in the party, angered some party members, who then nominated Hayashi and Ishihara.

"I ask for the understanding, and the strong, warm support of all the people of Japan in moving forward step by step toward a rejuvenated Liberal Democratic Party of tomorrow," Kaifu said.

In other developments Tuesday, Emperor Akihito opened a new session of parliament and called for lawmakers to promote world peace and national prosperity.

The parliament convened for the first time in 34 years with an Upper House no longer dominated by Liberal Democrats after they lost their majority in the July 23 elections.

Kaifu, if he is successful in reversing the decline in the LDP's popularity, will have a chance to realign the power structure in the party which has governed Japan since it was founded in 1955.

Move to disband U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels

Latin leaders agree on contras

TELA, Honduras (R) — Central American presidents, defying the United States in an agreement made public Monday, called for Nicaragua's U.S.-backed contra rebels to be disbanded within four months and to return to Nicaragua.

The agreement hammered out in the Honduran seaside resort of Tela could end an eight-year-old war that the U.S.-backed contras have waged against Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government.

U.S. Secretary of States James Baker reacted cautiously to reports of the Tela agreement. "It is important that (Nicaragua's) words should be followed by action," he said in Mexico City where he was meeting Mexican officials.

"We are very pleased with the steps the Nicaraguan government has taken on dialogue," he said,

adding however the contra rebels must be given guarantees if they disarm.

On his return to Managua from Tela, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said the disbanding meant "a death sentence" for the contra rebels.

In Miami, some contra leaders rejected the plan to disarm and disband the rebel army and vowed to keep their forces intact until after the elections.

"The whole idea of our people being able to go back safely to their homes in Nicaragua is ridiculous," Jose Medina Cuadra, president of the political assembly of the Nicaraguan fighters, told Reuters.

At a news conference in Tela at the end of the three-day summit, Ortega told reporters, "I hope that the U.S. government headed by President Bush will give total

support to the agreement of the Central American presidents and that funds approved for humanitarian aid to the contras be used for this demobilisation plan."

Under the plan, a commission formed by the United Nations and the Organisation of American States within 30 days of the announcement of the pact would oversee the disbanding and disarming. It would also make arrangements for rebels who refused to return home to go to third countries.

Nicaragua agreed to give land and economic aid to contras who wanted to farm in Nicaragua.

The plan is voluntary and Nicaraguan officials said its success depended on the cooperation of the United States, the rebels' chief backer.

The U.S. Congress approved \$50 million in humanitarian aid to

the contras last April in a law which said the funds could be used for the disbanding of the contras.

The presidents approved the pact despite lobbying from the U.S. administration to keep the rebels intact at least until elections are held in Nicaragua next February.

The rebels, some 12,000 of whom are based in Honduras with their families, also oppose moves to disband them.

The Central American presidents called for an end to the civil war in El Salvador and urged leftist Salvadorean guerrillas to open a dialogue with the government.

Nicaragua agreed that it would withdraw a complaint against Honduras before the World Court.



David Lange

Palmer succeeds Lange

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Geoffrey Palmer, poised to take over as New Zealand's prime minister Tuesday, said there will be no change in the anti-nuclear policy that has cooled relations with the United States.

Palmer was elected leader of the governing Labour Party at a caucus following Lange's sudden announcement that he was resigning for health reasons. Helen Clark, 40, who was health minister, was named to become deputy prime minister.

Lange, who has served as prime minister for five years, planned to formally submit his resignation to Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves later Tuesday. As party leader, Palmer who served five years as deputy prime minister, automatically succeeds him.

Palmer, 47, said he would continue Lange's economic and social policies, which have been the subject of party feuding over the past year.

He praised Lange for bringing the Labour Party to power and keeping it there.

"You have led with a vision and humanity that will be hard for any of us to match," he said.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department said it hoped the new prime minister would reassess New Zealand's anti-nuclear policy.

The U.S. embassy in Wellington said in a statement that it welcomed the appointment of Palmer, who it said was well known and held in high regard.

But Palmer quickly dashed any U.S. hopes for a turnaround on the nuclear issue.

"Our nuclear policy won't be changed," Palmer said at his first news conference following the party election.

"We want to have dialogue with the Americans, we want to have discussions, but I wouldn't want to suggest that there is going to be any prospect of immediate change in that respect at all," he said.

The nuclear issue has clouded relations between the two countries since 1984, when New Zealand declared itself nuclear-free. U.S. warships were refused port access because of Washington's policy of refusing to confirm or deny whether they were nuclear-armed.

The United States in 1986 retaliated by suspending all military cooperation with Wellington, effectively dismantling Anzus, a military alliance also including Australia.

Australia sided with the United States over the issue, but maintained a close relationship with New Zealand.

"I think New Zealand's relations with Australia are the most important relations we have," Palmer said. "The closer economic relationship we have with Australia is a key part of the performance of the New Zealand economy."

India offers Sri Lanka withdrawal by February

COLOMBO (R) — India is willing to pull out all its troops from Sri Lanka by next February and stop fighting Tamil guerrillas if Colombo accepts its terms, Sri Lanka's foreign minister said Tuesday.

Ranjan Wijeratne told parliament that in return for the withdrawal India wanted a committee which included the chief minister of the Tamil-dominated north-east province to plan security measures.

The minister was making a detailed statement after the two sides failed in week-long talks in New Delhi last week to agree on when the 44,500 Indian troops left in Sri Lanka should go.

This week New Delhi began withdrawing 1,500 soldiers in two batches from northern and eastern ports.

Indian embassy officials said 875 left Sunday from northern Kankesanthurai and another 700 were leaving Tuesday from eastern Trincomalee. Six hundred soldiers returned home July 29, the second anniversary of an In-

dia-Sri Lanka agreement.

The troops were sent to Sri Lanka under a 1987 pact aimed at ending a Tamil separatist campaign. But the powerful Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam guerrillas rejected the agreement and have resisted Indian attempts to disarm them.

A government statement said Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa put off until Friday a response to last week's talks while the views of ministers and parliamentarians were being sought.

Parliamentary officials said the house would debate Wijeratne's statement Thursday and Friday. In New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi told a meeting there was no simple solution to Sri Lanka's ethnic strife and both sides had to take hard decisions.

Political analysts said Gandhi was reluctant to pull out the troops by the end of the year because of national elections.

Wijeratne, who led the Sri Lankan delegation, said the talks

in New Delhi covered a timetable for the withdrawal, an end to offensive operations, review of the 1987 agreement and the security of Sinhalese and minority Tamils and Muslims in the north and east.

He said Sri Lanka wanted the phased withdrawal over by September and any remaining troops to be non-operational.

New Delhi had said it was willing to withdraw up to 1,600 men per week until February 1990, subject to its own condition, he added.

Wijeratne said Colombo had wanted India to agree to an immediate and unqualified ceasefire with the Tigers. However New Delhi said any ceasefire should be reciprocal and the rebels should join a peace committee.

He said Colombo's response to the committee proposal was that the safety of people in the north and east was a matter for the Sri Lankan government and that such a committee should include the Colombo-appointed governor of the province.



Sri Lankan security forces on the vigil against extremist attacks in Colombo.

Anger mounts over boat people in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (R) — Police Tuesday moved against angry Hong Kong residents protesting against the unabated flow of Vietnamese boat people to the British colony.

A small group of protesters had occupied the site of a proposed detention centre in the new territories district of Sai Kung for the past nine days. Police moved in before dawn Tuesday and carried them to a waiting bus.

The protesters have been blocking construction work at the site, citing lack of security and fears of pollution for the nearby reservoir.

The sit-in was part of a concerted effort by local civic groups who want Hong Kong to end its policy of first asylum, under which Vietnamese boat people are allowed to land here.

"The public and the press have been monitoring the situation, yet the government fails to make any improvement," said protest leader Wong Shui-Shang.

A member of the Shatin District Board, Johnston Wong, maintained Hong Kong's refugee problem had become unmanageable.

"The only solution would be to stop accepting any more refugees and immediately send back those already in Hong Kong," he said. There are now 52,785 Vietnamese jammed into Hong Kong's camps and detention centres,

many living in cramped miserable conditions. Over 1,000 have arrived in the past three days.

Hong Kong has operated a tough policy of screening out genuine refugees from what it considers to be economic migrants since June last year.

Officials estimate only 10 per cent of the 39,262 who have arrived since then qualify as refugees under United Nations criteria.

Those who do not qualify are held as illegal immigrants pending repatriation.

There is growing resentment among Hong Kong's majority Chinese population over the continuing influx, with demonstrations taking place outside temporary detention centres and petitions for an end to the government.

Government officials have in the past expressed fears that tension in the colony caused by the approach of 1997, when China regains sovereignty over Hong Kong, could spill over into violence aimed at the Vietnamese.

They concede that security at some of the temporary detention centres, such as the tent camp at Sek Kong military airstrip, is poor.

Local residents around Sek

Kong have regularly complained to police and government officials about Vietnamese boat people breaking out of the camp and destroying vegetable plots.

Fish farmers on the Soko Islands, where 6,000 Vietnamese are living in squalid conditions, claim their stocks have been decimated by boat people trying to augment the basic food given to them by the government.

Meanwhile there were signs that the voluntary repatriation programme sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was picking up speed.

Despite its slow start — only 143 have gone back to Vietnam on two special flights this year — UNHCR chief of mission Robert van Leerwen said between 600 and 700 were now waiting to be processed.

"It is picking up and it's not just from one camp. Demands to go home are pretty widespread," he told Reuters.

"Every effort is being made to speed up the processing of applications. We are in constant touch with the Vietnamese authorities and we have every reason to believe they understand the desirability of speeding up the process," he said.

Another flight is due to leave for Hanoi Aug. 17.

Burmese mark uprising

BANGKOK (R) — Burmese Tuesday marked the first anniversary of a general strike that turned into a bloody national uprising with a small hunger strike, diplomats said.

Seventy members of the National League for Democracy, Burma's largest opposition party, began a fast on the grounds of the league's headquarters in Rangoon.

Envoys said more troops than usual patrolled the capital. Soldiers removed placards listing the hunger strikers' grievances and appeals for political freedom but did not otherwise interfere and there was no violence, the envoys said.

The rigidly controlled state-owned press Tuesday ran several

articles alleging that communist subversives had infiltrated and duped the league and other opposition groups.

A Japanese journalist accredited to enter Burma (Myanmar) said he was denied admission Monday.

Correspondent Yasushi Tomiyama of the Jiji News Agency said immigration officials told him on arrival at Rangoon airport that journalists were barred from the country and sent him back to Bangkok the same day.

"I was told there were orders from superiors that journalists cannot enter," Tomiyama, 38, said. The Bangkok-based reporter had a visa issued by the Burmese embassy here granting him entry as a journalist between

June and September.

Tomiyama said he intended to report on the situation in Burma a year after the Aug. 8 general strike, which erupted into a week of violence as troops opened fire in an attempt to crush dissent.

That attack sparked a nationwide uprising that overthrew the former government and led to a violent military takeover in September, during which, diplomats said, the army killed and injured thousands of people.

Since July, authorities have stepped up suppression of anti-government activities, arresting hundreds of opposition organisers and putting popular Democracy League leader Aung San Sun Kyi under house arrest.

Superpowers agree to obey

World Court in 7 treaties

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States and Soviet Union have agreed to accept the world court's authority in seven treaties that punish hijackers and drug traffickers, U.S. officials said Monday.

Five of the treaties cover airline hijacking, sabotage and terrorism, and require hijackers and terrorists to be tried or extradited. Two treaties call for seizure of the assets of drug lords and the trial or extradition of drug traffickers.

Under the agreement, Washington and Moscow will submit disputes over interpretation of the treaties to an arbitration panel of five of the World Court's 15 judges, said U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Both parties must agree upon which five judges will be the arbiters, allaying fears by either side that the entire court would be biased. The arbiters' ruling

would be binding on both sides. The agreement was signed Thursday by U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer and his counterpart in the Soviet Foreign ministry, Yuri M. Rybakov.

Under its provisions, Washington and Moscow eventually could submit other treaties to arbitration, although disputes involving national security or the use of force are exempt.

That would avoid cases like Nicaragua's 1986 dispute with Washington, in which the Sandinista government contended the United States was illegally mining its harbours and supporting the contra rebels. The U.S. government refused to honour a world court ruling that sided with the Sandinistas.

A U.S. legal adviser said there were no current cases involving hijacking, terrorism or drug trafficking to test the new U.S.-Soviet agreement, but noted such

cases have arisen before.

Aircraft hijackers from Eastern Europe have landed in Berlin's western sector in the past, and such cases could come under the new agreement, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Several years ago, a hijacker who landed in West Berlin was tried by a U.S. judge and received a light sentence of time already served while awaiting trial. East European officials had sought extradition or a severe sentence.

Under the new agreement, the World Court could rule on whether a hijacker should be extradited if a dispute arose over his sentence or legal status.

The pact is the latest U.S.-Soviet move to enhance the authority of the court, formally known as the International Court of Justice at the Hague, which is the main judicial body of the United Nations.

COLUMN 8

U2 guitarist arrested

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Adam Clayton of the Irish rock group U2 has been charged with possession of marijuana. The 28-year-old, bass guitarist, dressed all in black, appeared briefly in Dublin's district court Monday but under Irish law was not required to enter a plea. Clayton was arrested near his Dublin home Sunday night and charged with possessing marijuana and with supplying the drug with the intent to supply someone else, police told the court. Judge Desmond Whelan ordered Clayton to post bail of approximately \$710 and to return to court Sept. 1. If convicted of possession of marijuana, Clayton faces a maximum fine of approximately \$1,420. Police said there is no fixed penalty for a conviction for possession of the drug with intent to supply, and the judge usually takes into account the circumstances of the arrest and the amount of drug involved.

Police, firemen chase piglets

SCHONDRUP, West Germany (AP) — Police, firemen and veterinary surgeons chased 100 terrified piglets along an autobahn in northern Bavaria Tuesday after a truck loaded with the animals overturned. It was four hours before the last one was rounded up. Another 500 piglets died in the accident while the driver and his mate were injured.

Gabor may not get what she wants

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Zsa Zsa Gabor may not see any misconduct complaint in the personnel file of the policeman who arrested her following a street confrontation, a judge ruled. Municipal Judge Charles G. Rubin issued the order during a pretrial hearing focusing on the file of officer Paul Kramer, whom Gabor has described as an "empty-headed, gorgonian man" and a "sadist." Kramer arrested Gabor June 14 after he ordered her to pull her car over so he could investigate a registration violation, and she drove off as he checked for other infractions. When he stopped her two blocks later, she allegedly backhanded him across the face, knocking off his glasses. Authorities charged Gabor with misdemeanor battery on a policeman, disobeying a policeman's orders, driving with an expired license, having an open container of alcohol in her car and carrying an expired registration. The defence for Gabor contends the officer has a history of harassment against celebrities.

Louganis settles suit

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis has settled a lawsuit against his former housemate and business manager who was allegedly threatening the champion diver. "The lawsuit has been amicably resolved," Louganis' attorney, Pat Benson, announced. No details were disclosed. Louganis, who won gold medals for springboard and platform diving in both the 1984 and 1988 summer games, has turned to an acting career. In March, Superior Court Judge Dzintra Janavs ordered R. James Babbitt to stay at least 150 metres away from Louganis unless they mutually agreed to closer contact. But the judge refused to order Babbitt out of the Malibu home they shared for four years. On March 13, Louganis fired Babbitt, his manager for six years, and the Olympic champ alleged that Babbitt threatened to make public "confidential and private facts" about him, unless Louganis rehired or compensated him.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	°C	F	Wind
AMSTERDAM	17	63	75 Rain
ATHENS	20	68	35 Clear
BAHRAIN	31	88	100 Clear
BANGKOK	28	82	30 Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	28	77	33 91 Clear
CARACAS	12	53	18 Clear
CHICAGO	22	72	34 Clear
CHONGKING	11	52	70 Clear
DENVER	15	59	22 Rain
HONG KONG	17	63	28 76 Cloudy
HOUSTON	18	64	31 80 Cloudy
JAKARTA	28	82	30 Clear
JERUSALEM	19	66	30 Clear
LONDON	17	63	57 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	20	68	24 Clear
MADRID	17	63	31 Clear
MELBOURNE	15	59	11 Cloudy
MOSCOW	14	57	29 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	28	82	30 Cloudy
NEW YORK	20	68	76 Clear
PARIS	18	64	33 Clear
ROME	20	68	30 Clear
SEOUL	14	57	25 Clear
TOKYO	25	77	25 Clear
VIENNA	18	65	75 Rain

